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3 May 1983

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

No. 2673

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TESORO THREATENS GOVERNMENT OVER NONPAYMENT OF DIVIDENDS

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 27 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] TESORO Petroleum Corporation of San Antonio, Texas, the minority partner in Trinidad-Tesoro Petroleum Company has written a threatening letter to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the majority partner, on the issue of no dividends being paid on the 1981 profits of the local company.

In its letter reportedly delivered to the Attorney General, Senator Russell Martineau, Tesoro has threatened that if no action was taken by the Government in 10 days, it would sue by way of filing a writ.

Tesoro is claiming that it is due dividends on \$58 million, which represents 50 per cent of the 1981 profits.

However, Trinidad-Tesoro's Board of Directors has taken a decision not to pay dividends for the fiscal year 1981 because of the financial position of the company.

Chairman of Trinidad-Tesoro, Mr. George Legall, (former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Energy), said in his report the company registered net profits of \$117.2 million in 1981--\$43.6 million less than the \$160.8 million declared in 1980.

And according to Tesoro's annual report, which has just been issued, its entire 1981 earnings were ploughed back into the business in order to finance a capital investment programme of \$139.1 million--26 per cent more than the \$110.8 million invested in 1980.

But Tesoro of Texas is arguing that under the Heads of Agreement signed by itself and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, dividends must be paid at this stage.

Taxes

In accordance with the agreement, no dividends were to be declared or paid to holders of ordinary shares during the company initial five years, which expired on June 30, 1974.

The agreement further provides that after this date, at the request of either the Government or Tesoro and to the extent cash is available, there shall be declared and paid dividends equal to 50 per cent of net earnings after taxes.

The Texas company, it was reported, is arguing its case on this particular ground, but the Government is reportedly standing firm on the decision taken by the company's board.

Government owns 50.1 per cent of Trinidad-Tesoro, and the remaining 49.9 per cent is owned by the Tesoro Petroleum Corporation.

Negotiations have been going on recently between the Government and Tesoro of Texas for the purchase of its 49.9 per cent equity by the Government. But according to reports, there has been total disagreement over price.

At the opening of the negotiations last September, Tesoro was reportedly asking for \$480 million (\$200 million US) but while addressing the negotiating teams, Minister of State Enterprises, Mr. Ronnie Williams, told Tesoro: "A large body of opinion in this country is of the view, having regard to the dividends, amounting so far to \$165 million, which Tesoro has received from its investment, and having regard to the fact that no new capital injection was made by Tesoro, other than its initial investment (US \$50,000), the appropriate selling price should be \$50,000 (US) (\$120,000 TT)."

However, latest reports indicate that Tesoro holds a trump card in the negotiations, in that the company has indicated that unless it gets what it considers a fair deal for its shareholdings, it would make public information which can be embarrassing to the Trinidad and Tobago Government.

The negotiations are currently in abeyance pending court matters filed by some shareholders against chairman of the Tesoro Petroleum Corporation, Dr. Robert V. West.

CSO: 3298/500

TEXACO SHUTS DOWN CRACKING UNIT FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Mar 83 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text] TEXACO Trinidad has shut down its fluid catalytic cracking unit (catcracker) at Pointe-a-Pierre for emergency repairs. A company spokesman said that "every effort will be made to minimise down time and hopefully the unit will be on line in 21 days.

Ask whether the Oilfields Workers Trade Union was aware of the shut down, Mr. Errol McLeod 2nd Vice-President of the union said he heard about it.

"My response to that is that Texaco has been skilfully manipulating the Government, which is weak, into a position that is against the workers of the country," he added.

It was learnt that the catcracker developed a technical problem. The unit produces petroleum products such as premium and regular gasoline, aviation jet fuel, liquified petroleum gas (LPG), dieseline and domestic and industrial kerosene.

It is not known how much petroleum products Texaco has in store.

Trinidad consumes about 35,000 gallons of premium gasoline daily. Texaco produces 80% per cent and Trinidad and Tobago Oil company Limited (Trintoc) 20 per cent of the gasoline used.

It is understood that if refining operations at Texaco cease for any length of time, there could be a shortage of gasoline and other petroleum products.

According to Texaco, arrangements have been made to ensure that there will be no problems with the supply of petroleum products while the catcracker is undergoing repairs.

(Mr. Rodney Charles, Public Relations Officer of national Petroleum Marketing Company (NP), said last night that the shutdown of the Texaco catcracker would in no way affect the supply of petroleum products in the country).

The catcracker was shut down at midnight on the eve of the expiration of the Government arrangement whereby Trintoc supplies Texaco with crude to be refined at Pointe-a-Pierre.

Disappointment

That agreement comes to an end tomorrow. It is not known whether Trintoc would stop supplying the crude in view of the repairs to be done to the catcracker.

Officials could not say whether the agreement was being renewed.

Oil workers, particularly at Pointe-a-Pierre expressed disappointment yesterday that no agreement was reached in the talks at the Ministry of Labour on Monday concerning reduction of the retirement age for Texaco workers.

CSO: 3298/500

COLOMBIA WILL RESUME EXPORTS TO NICARAGUA

Bogotá EL TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Mar 83 p 15-A

/Text/ Colombia will resume exports to Nicaragua after the decline of the last 3 years, and will sell that country shrimp boats, buses and aqueduct parts under a \$36.5 million trade agreement, the government revealed yesterday.

Minister of Economic Development Roberto Gerlein Echeverría indicated that exports will be sent to Nicaragua pursuant to a limited agreement, a mechanism provided for within the Latin American Integration Association, ALADI, to make sales to nonmember countries in the zone.

The purchases will be made directly by the Sandinist government. This is the first successful transaction in line with the Colombian strategy to capture a large part of the Caribbean market, which accounts for about \$1 billion per year.

The shipments to Nicaragua will be made "in the near future," and the Export Promotion Fund, PROEXPO, will finance the domestic component of the products with medium- and long-term credits to manufacturers.

Colombia, which has invoked the 1980 Treaty of Montevideo to gain preferential access to the Caribbean market, would also increase imports from those countries to help improve their poor balance of payments.

Minister Gerlein also stressed the importance of other trade mechanisms established for the Caribbean, such as the postshipment credits that are in effect for exports to Jamaica and Barbados.

In order to strengthen the Colombian presence in that region, a horizontal technical cooperation program will be carried out which will have the double advantage of improving awareness of the needs and possibilities of Caribbean countries and laying the foundation for future exports of services, Gerlein explained.

He also announced that mechanisms to promote Colombian products in the Caribbean will be strengthened and that new PROEXPO offices will be opened in those countries.

BRIEFS

SPORTS UNDER SECRETARY APPOINTED--Buenos Aires, 21 Mar (TELAM)--The executive branch has designated Dr Horacio Aldo Monti as sports under secretary of the Social Action Ministry. [PY230200 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2045 GMT 21 Mar 83]

CENTRAL BANK OFFICIAL RESIGNS--Buenos Aires, 15 Mar (NA)--Reliable sources report that Central Bank Vice President Alberto Ayerza has resigned his post. [PY230200 Buenos Aires Noticias Argentinas in Spanish 0154 GMT 16 Mar 83]

FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER DIES--Buenos Aires, 19 Mar (DYN)--Former Foreign Minister Mario Amadeo died here today at age 72. [PY230200 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2122 GMT 19 Mar 83]

DEFENSE, DEVELOPMENT EXPENSES--Buenos Aires, 14 Mar (NA)--The 1983 budget draft foresees that defense and security spending will amount to 20.1 percent of total public expenditures, that would be \$16,250,000,000. On the other hand, 37.8 percent of government spending will be devoted to development projects. [PY230200 Buenos Aires Noticias Argentinas in Spanish 2115 GMT 14 Mar 83]

SWEDISH AMBASSADOR ENDS MISSION--On 12 April, President Reynaldo Bignone granted an audience to Swedish Ambassador to Argentina Lars Hedstrom, who said goodbye to the president upon concluding his mission in Buenos Aires. [PY121853 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Apr 83]

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH ALGERIA--On 12 April, Argentine Foreign Minister Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari and Algerian Commerce Minister Abdelaziz Khellef signed a trade agreement providing for the granting of mutual concessions to promote bilateral trade relations. [PY121853 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Apr 83]

FIRST NATIONAL-LEVEL PARTY--Buenos Aires, 8 Apr (TELAM)--The judge on electoral questions in this capital Eduardo Francisco Marquardt today granted final recognition to the Development and Integration Movement (MID) as a political party at the national level. The MID was authorized to the exclusive use of this name and was accorded all the privileges under political parties' organic law No 22627. [Excerpt] [PY090204 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1804 GMT 8 Apr 83]

BOMB EXPLODES IN SCHOOL--Buenos Aires, 6 Apr (DYN)--Police sources reported that a bomb exploded today inside a school where some of the courses are given in English. The explosion broke glass windows in nine classrooms but there were no casualties. The attack took place in the San Juan School located on Pueyrredon and Juan de Garay Streets, in the residential area of Acassuso, northern area of greater Buenos Aires about 15 km from here. According to school sources, the school teaches primary and secondary levels with courses in Spanish in one shift and English in another. It was also reported that the director of the school is reportedly an English citizen but he was not identified. [Text] [PY061602 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1549 GMT 6 Apr 83]

EXPLOSIVES, WEAPONS FOUND--Buenos Aires, 6 Apr (TELAM)--The owners of a bakery in Lomas de Zamora reported to the federal police the finding of a large number of small arms bearing the inscription of the Argentine Air Force and Argentine Army, as well as explosives (trotyl) and empty hand grenades in the attic of the bakery and in a house next to it. It was learned from Buenos Aires police sources that the weapons were found at the La Flor Bakery at 874 Castelli Street, Lomas de Zamora, and in a house next to it that has been abandoned for many years. The abandoned house is located at the intersection of Castelli and Croce Streets, having its entrance on Croce Street. It was learned that while cleaning the bakery, the new owners found in the attic a significant number of 45 calibre automatic pistols and several light-weight automatic rifles (FAL) bearing the inscription of the Air Force and Army. According to the same sources, the explosives were found in an abandoned house next to the bakery. This house was allegedly sealed off a few days ago with a strip of paper bearing the inscription Argentine Federal Police-Avellaneda Precinct. The sources referred to the possibility that the bakery and the abandoned house might have been used as peoples jails or as hideouts by one of the terrorist organizations that operated in Argentina some years ago. [Text] [PY071649 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1745 GMT 6 Apr 83]

BOMB DEFUSED NEAR MID OFFICE--Buenos Aires, 11 Apr (NA)--Early this morning the police set off a low power explosive device which was placed in a building next to the Integration and Development Movement [MID] office in Palermo neighborhood. The explosion broke a glass window and damaged the iron curtain door of a grocery store on Serrano Street No 1530. According to information furnished by neighbors, a group of unidentified characters laid a package on the grocery store's window and fled. The action was reported to the police and a squad of the antiexplosive brigade showed up promptly. The policemen noted that the package was connected by wires to what appeared to be a clock mechanism; so they decided to explode the device. As a precautionary measure before exploding the device, houses close to the grocery store were evacuated and street traffic was halted, according to information provided by neighbors. [Text] [PY120227 Buenos Aires Noticias Argentinas in Spanish 1320 GMT 11 Apr 83]

AIR FORCE DENIES PLANE PURCHASES--Buenos Aires, 11 Apr (TELAM)--Today top commanders of the Air Force analyzed the economic area's responses to the Air Force's determination to prevent any financial arrangement with international banks which might alter the terms in which the country ought to negotiate. It was also learned that the commanders denied any plane purchases or that negotiations for the purchase of combat planes have been initiated, because the country presently has other priorities. This information was obtained at the end of a meeting of Air Force commanders held at the Condor Building. The meeting lasted from 0900 until noon and was chaired by Brig Gen Augusto Jorge Hughes, the Air Force commander in chief. Sources denied that the Air Force has bought any combat planes recently, and that it has practically no foreign debt, because that debt only amounts to less than 0.5 percent of the total registered foreign debt. [Excerpt] [PY112204 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1940 GMT 11 Apr 83]

NAVY COMMANDER MEETS BELAUNDE--Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry met in Lima with Argentine Navy Commander in Chief Adm Ruben Oscar Franco. Admiral Franco arrived in Lima yesterday and immediately met with his Peruvian counterpart, Vice Adm Ricardo Zevallos Newton, and with the Peruvian Army commander in chief, General Briceno Zevallos. [Excerpt] [PY082252 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 8 Apr 83]

CSO: 3348/317

OPPOSITION ATTACKS ON PRICE, PUP SPARK RESPONSES

Musa Remarks

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 6 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] On his return to the country the BELIZE TIMES editor spoke to the Attorney General, Mr Said Musa, about some wild allegations appearing recently in the local opposition press. This was his response:

"I have seen an anonymous leaflet which I believe is the origin of these allegations. I am not in the habit of responding to irresponsible journalism but since you ask let me say this:

"I am not the leader of the Democratic Direction. This is a group of young people within the Peoples United Party who, as I understand it, is concerned that the Party should stick to its declared principles, policies and programmes. In any democratic organization, there will be differing views. This is to be expected. It is a clear sign that the Party is vibrant and alive.

The Party is not perfect and self-criticism from time to time is a healthy sign.

I hasten to add that although the PUP is not perfect, it still remains the best and the most effective party in Belize.

I believe I am being singled out for attack by a small group who see their positions threatened.

Let me say this: I have absolutely no desire of being the leader of the Party. We have a good leader. Neither do I have any designs on the chairmanship of the Party. There are others in the Party far better able to do that.

I am prepared to carry out my work as a Minister of the Government because I believe in the principles of the Party and the Manifesto of the New and Progressive Revolution.

Guided by that Manifesto, I am committed to democracy and social justice. The charge of communism is a ridiculous one! It is used by those who want to create a smokescreen to hide their own misdeeds!

There is so much work to be done for our country's economic development. Let us not waste time with the idle power-hungry mischievous ones!

Assessment of Opposition Leadership

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 6 Mar 83 p 5

[Article carrying notation "Contributed": "Whither Belize? What Opposition?"]

[Text] There is a new focus in the political picture in Belize. Recently the opposition went through a heaving and coughing exercise in a desperate attempt to get new wind in an ailing body. Lacking a spirit of its own the opposition had survived on borrowed air and borrowed time; as an unfortunate remnant of colonialism it failed to stem the tide of Belizean nationalism and independence.

The problem with the opposition was not the lack of leaders--perhaps too many leaders was part of the problem--it was the absence of any real deep understanding of the times that caught up with them; they did not understand the issues of the day.

Opposition efforts were wasted fighting George Price and it was something greater than George Price that they were up against; they were against history and against the expressed desires of the vast majority of the people to be free. And because of their ignorance they changed leaders, not once but several times.

History will record that the late Herbert Fuller and Phillip Goldson were all great men; where they failed as leaders was in that capacity, which they lacked, to know when to do the right thing in the right time.

As the Attorney General rightly said in the Nation's Chambers, that with an opposition such as the one we have, the people are left with no other choice but to vote for the P.U.P.

So, even at this stage in opposition history, it seems that they have not yet grasped the full meaning of what constitutes an opposition, and, as a further guess to an unanswered question, they keep changing leaders. The latins have a word for that type of political disease, they call it "personalismo"--everybody wants to be the leader; unfortunately, as the latins well know, it is a terminal case.

The latest casualty in the long sick list of opposition leaders is non other but Curl Thompson; he too fell victim of that selfsame disease, "personalismo." Others with the symptoms, loud and clear, are Esquivel, Aragon and Wagner--Lindo is having another go at it.

One can readily see that the main objective of all this scramble for leadership is not the desire to serve the country but to be the man at the top--the boss; and to achieve that they have no scruples in enlisting which ever aid comes by, even the country's enemies. In their craze for power they pay no heed as to who are the real enemies or Belize; in their sick minds, frustration and fixation they only see George Price as the cause of Belize's troubles.

What does the opposition have to say about the low price of sugar, about the unjust economic order, of the advantages taken by the rich nations on the poor ones? Nothing absolutely nothing. In fact all these problems are glossed over to better attack George Price.

The current leader of the opposition says that half of Belize people are crazy; a view we do not subscribe to. Nevertheless, hearing the man speak, one can only conclude that indeed he may be a mad man. Anyhow the coming opposition infighting will show him for what he's worth.

Explanation of Infighting

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 13 Mar 83 p 15

[Text] Much has been said, and written, about the in-fighting going on with the P.U.P. There are those who would like to see in it a clash of ideologies, of Right versus Left. But Belizeans need not be dragged in the mire of ideological conflict; first, because in a small country, such as Belize, people know each other, and, what is even more, the People's United Party has long ago set the basis for social cooperation. There is almost a complete absence of social injustices that spark-off explosive changes.

Political observers on the scene are of the opinion that what is taking place inside the P.U.P. is the natural outcome of dynamic and progressive forces jousting among themselves in the absence of worthwhile opponents from the outside. In other words, if the UDP were any real threat the P.U.P. would be fighting them rather than among themselves.

All indications are that, once the present tourney in the PUP is over, the opposition will have to face an even stronger opponent than before, for there is one, or rather a most important factor that must not be overlooked, and that is the fact that both contending forces, in the P.U.P., are synthesized under the able leadership of the present Prime Minister, the Hon. George Price.

That there are people who hold extremist views in any political organization, that too, is a fact of life. Why, even Lenin had to watch-out against those he termed, the infantilism of the left." Was it not in the White House where the "Hawks and Doves" were spawned? So, now that little Belize is becoming of age, why must that make the headlines?

What we must watch out against, and rightly so, is that people of whatever political persuasion take over complete control in the country. That, yes, is surely dangerous. But, again, that sort of game can hardly be played in Belize. We are too much accustomed to our democratic traditions. There is hardly any lapse in time when Belizeans are not voting for one thing or the other. Belizeans are an intelligent, educated and articulate people and in public life they have shown themselves to be quite sober whose decisions are well considered.

In our recent history over the past thirty years or so, Belizeans have unerringly made the right decisions in their politics. And the fact that they continue to do so, year after year, despite cries about "invasion," "wars" and "communism" should serve as a lesson to those who think that by creating hysteria of Left or Right can make the people panic and throw themselves to the dogs. When the time comes Belizeans will not be swayed either to the Right or the Left but will go center.

CSO: 3298/451

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ROGEPS ADDRESSES NEW DELHI SUMMIT

On Central American Crisis

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 27 Mar 83 pp 1, 9

[Text] Speaking at the Non-Aligned Movement Summit Conference Deputy Prime Minister C L B Rogers warned the delegates that the crisis in Central America grows more serious every day. It threatens to erupt into a regional conflagration that could consume all of us in the region.

"The peaceful resolution of the crisis is through the respect for the right of the peoples of Central America to self-determination, a right which must not be conditioned by, or be subservient to, great power interests," he added.

El Salvador

For this reason Belize subscribes to a "negotiated political solution to the Salvador conflict with the participation of all the representative political forces," We support the Mexico-Venezuela and France-Mexico peace initiatives.

Nicaragua

Mr Rogers urged the initiation of direct negotiations in a constructive manner to preserve the gains of the Nicaraguan people and put an end to the increasing threats and acts of aggression against that country, which have reached proportions of war. Called a "Secret War" the deaths and destruction caused are no secret, they are real, and cause us great anguish and concern, he declared.

The Root of Our Problem

Belize is concerned at the deterioration in the process of seeking peaceful, negotiated political solutions. The problems of the region cannot be attributed to, or explained by, the East West ideological confrontation.

Our problems have their roots in a history of exploitation, repression and interference. They can best be solved by the application of the non-aligned principles of self-determination, non-intervention and non-interference; respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of

states; peaceful co-existence, and the non use of force in the settlement of disputes

Mr Rogers concluded his statement on the explosive situation in Central America with the words: "All we basically demand is the right to live in peace."

Foreign Affairs Views

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 27 Mar 83 pp 4, 13

[Text] "Belize is present in this ancient land of India because we believe: in peace.... in equality among all races and peoples in the world.... in the restructuring of the present economic system that causes misery to so many for the benefit of so few. We are here because we are non aligned."

With these words the Deputy Prime Minister of Belize, the Hon. C L B Rogers, began his statement at the Seventh NonAligned Summit in New Delhi, India, on 11 March 1983.

Mr Rogers said that for Belize non-alignment is not an abstract, intellectual concept. It is a "positive force for justice in the world that contributed greatly to our own emergence as a sovereign, independent nation." A force on which Belize still relies for the "consolidation of our independence and territorial integrity."

On Guatemala, the Deputy Prime Minister informed the Heads of State and Government of the 101 nations that Belizeans continue "to face the threat implied by the refusal of the Government of Guatemala to accept the reality of an independent, non-aligned Belize."

Mr Rogers described Guatemala's most recent travesty to attempt to be reasonable in the eyes of the world. This it did by announcing that "instead of claiming ALL of Belize's national territory, it will be satisfied with only the southern one-third of our country. They are prepared to spare our lives, they say self-righteously, but Belize must give up a vital organ

In the meantime, said Mr Rogers, the Guatemalans "continue to penetrate our frontiers, and engage in actions designed to retard our economic development."

Despite all this, Belize "will continue to seek ways to allow our two countries to work out areas of co-operation for our mutual benefit, and to live in peace with each other.

"But", the Deputy Prime Minister emphasized, "in this endeavour Belize resolutely insists that it will not compromise its independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, nor its non-aligned character."

Mr Rogers urged the Movement to develop concrete and effective mechanisms for solving the problems of security and survival that bedevil so many of its members.

In his speech, which was well received, the Deputy Prime Minister of Belize expressed his Government's policy on a wide range of subjects:

Preventive Diplomacy:

Endorsement of the US Secretary General's statement to "stop a problem before it develops to explosive proportions and move resolutely to solve that problem by peaceful means."

Special Security Conference:

Endorsement of the Egyptian proposal for such a conference and supported call to elaborate a declaration on the inviolability of the frontiers of all non-aligned countries.

Grenada:

Support of their right to pursue their own path of development without political or economic pressures or threats of any kind.

Guyana:

Support of its efforts to preserve its territorial integrity and to pursue its economic development without hindrance and support a solution to the controversy with Venezuela through peaceful means in accordance with the Geneva Agreement of 1966.

Panama:

Urge respect for the sovereignty of Panama and expressed hope for the establishment of a non-discriminatory salary scale for all workers in the Panama Canal.

Falkland Islands:

Continuation of its well known policy on the principles of self determination, the non use of force and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

South Africa

Condemnation of the apartheid policies and practices of the illegal racist regime of South Africa; and support the right of the black majority there to gain their liberation by any means necessary.

Namibia:

Full support for the struggle of their people and SWAPO as their legitimate representatives. Gave a pledge for material assistance within limited resources of Belize.

Palestinians:

Support for the establishment of a permanent Homeland.

World Economy:

The "current world economic crisis" will not just go away after a while. It cannot be dismissed as a cyclical recession that will recede in time and give way to new and enduring prosperity. It is a deep-rooted and universal economic crisis that will only be resolved with the total reorganisation of the world economic system.

Urged that the Summit issue a separate and specific statement of the emergency measures that are required now to help us survive the current effects of this critical economic situation.... keeping in mind that emergency measures are never a substitute for long-term reforms.

Belize is concerned at the lack of progress in the global negotiations for the new international economic order, and reject the attempt of some countries of the North to use the present world economic crisis to divide our countries, and so weaken our collective bargaining power to shape the new world order.

CSO: 3298/502

REPORT ON PRICE'S VISIT TO GUATEMALANS IN JALACTE VILLAGE

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 13 Mar 83 p B

[Text]

On March 5, 1983, at about 7:30 a.m. the Prime Minister accompanied by his two Aides and two guides started out from Pueblo Viejo on his way to Jalacte Village. They were later joined by the Alcalde of Pueblo Viejo.

Jalacte is a small village on the Belize/Guatemala border which is about eight miles from the village of Pueblo Viejo. There are about twenty-three families from Guatemala living there, who came to better conditions in Belize. The people are hard-working and grow their own food such as rice, corn, beans and ground food. there is one church-the Nazarene Church. As yet there is no school.

The road to Jalacte is not an easy one as it passes through thick jungle and very high hills that can be very slippery when it rains. To get to the village you really have to make up your mind to walk because the first thing you come across is a range of hills and maybe that would break your courage. Even though the trip took the Prime Minister and his group four and a half hours of hard walking up and down hills, it was enjoyable because it was good exercise and they came across some beautiful mahogany and other valuable trees.

The Belizean flag is now flying in the village and the people say

they are very happy to be in Belize. On the Prime Minister's arrival he was welcomed by all. A meeting was held with the villagers and they came to an understanding that the number of families should not increase and they all agreed.

After the meeting the Prime Minister and his group was taken to a house where they were served hot corn tortillas and hot caldo with pork meat.

The Prime Minister left the village at about one thirty by helicopter which took about ten minutes. They were back in time for the opening of the Eldridge Community Centre.

POLITICAL INFLUENCE HIDES DISHONESTY IN UNNAMED MINISTRY

Belize City THE BEACON in English 5 Mar 83 p 7

[Article: "Cow Foot Soup Promotion?"]

[Text] It is amazing to what levels the Civil Service has deteriorated with the advent of Independence. Dishonesty has become commonplace in shameless fashion. Incompetents who enjoy political insulation can get away with any dishonest act and still maintain their position and seniority in the Service.

A certain Head of Department post has been vacant now for over a year. One of the principal aspirants for the post, who, next to the Minister himself, is the real fly in the ointment responsible for most of the ills of this Department due to greed, was recently caught red-handed in a most dishonest act. When queried by his Ag. Head of Department, and further by his Permanent Secretary, his reply was unsatisfactory and steered away from the point. The Permanent Secretary then threatened to report the matter to the Permanent Secretary, Establishment, and offered the officer a further opportunity to explain away his behavior before further action was taken. From this point the whole affair took a strange turn:

The officer's brother, who is an ex-shady civil servant, went to the Department's Belize City Office and railed cane, using abusive and obscene language to the staff, and threatened to harm the Ag. Head of Department bodily if anything happened to the career of his dear brother.

On that same Saturday night, the brother took a large pot of cow foot soup, hot factory-made flour tortillas, and whisky in galore to the Permanent Secretary's home and threw a hell of a party there.

On the following Monday, the matter was closed. The dishonest civil servant had no further case to answer and he was promptly recommended to fill the vacant post.

A similar matter had occurred previously in the same Department involving another officer. His case was rushed to the Public Service Commission without delay and he was severely reprimanded. Obviously, he could not afford to throw a cow foot soup party so he could not get away.

It is incomprehensible why Government has not seen it fit to cause the setting up of a commission of inquiry into the latest affairs of this Ministry after the occurrences of such shameful scandals there. Are there matters which should not see the light of day? Whatever there is, the public has a right to know regardless of whose heads must roll as a result.

CSO: 3298/452

PUP DEMOCRATIC DIRECTION FACTION MOVES AGAINST PRICE

Belize City THE BEACON in English 26 Feb 83 p 7

[Text] The Right Honourable Prime Minister George Cadle Price might have felt secure in his leadership of the People's United Party. And many people in Belize at one time shared the same view. However, fact and fiction are at variance.

A group in the PUP obviously headed by Shoman and Musa calling themselves the Democratic Direction, has decided to make its move to take over the party from Price, Sylvestre and all.

The evidence of this has been emerging from time to time. Lately they have published a declaration which leaves no doubt what their intention is. Actually, this is nothing new to those who have been watching the political scene. These are the same people who issued such scathing criticism of Mr Price before. One need only recall their party RAM and their newspaper "FIRE."

Despite their vicious attacks on Price--personal and otherwise--he felt he was smart to take them into his party. That way he could control them--or so he thought.

Now they have used the powers that he has given to them on a platter to turn on him.

Their publication is very clear and so we let them speak for themselves. One thing is certain, PUP supporters can have no doubt as to their intention to oust Mr Price from his position.

Party in Bad State

"The Democratic Direction of the People's United Party is made up of militant members of the Party who are concerned about the present state of the PUP."

"Flag Independence"

"We face the historic task of making our independence real and meaningful, not just a "flag independence." The major responsibility for leading this struggle falls, at this time, on the government of Belize and the People's United Party. In order to have a 50/50 chance of making some progress in this struggle, the party must have clear policies and programmes to deal with the situation."

Party Not Democratic

"It is becoming increasingly--and publicly--evident every day, however, that the Party is deeply divided at the leadership level and that this division is having its effects on the rank and file membership. In one sense, this division, and the fact that it has been allowed to grow like a cancer in the Party, is the result of a failure to clearly define and adhere to the long-term and short-term strategies, goals, policies and programmes of the Party. But the most fundamental problem is that democracy is not practiced in the Party. Party members are not capacitated nor given the opportunity to participate in the formulation or execution of Party policy. Over a period of several decades, Party organization and political education have been grossly underdeveloped. National conventions are held and no real election of Party officers takes place; rather, members are asked to accept a slate handed down by a self-perpetuating leadership." (To be cont'd.) [Editor's Note: No continuation appeared in the next issue of THE BEACON on 5 March 1983.]

CSO: 3298/451

BRIEFS

COMMENT ON NONALIGNED DELEGATION--Belizeans are wondering aloud why it is that Belize is being represented by a 3-man delegation at the Nonaligned Conference currently being held in India. The reason for the queries is that the Belize Government has admitted to being tightly strapped for funds ("cash flow problems...and problems of liquidity") and sending one official, more so three half-way around the world is certainly no petty expense. Such an expedition does not cost peanuts. It is expensive. However, one comes to understand the need for this unnecessarily large delegation when the matter is viewed in light of the ideological struggle within the PUP. Rogers is there as a counter-balance to Shoman, and Shoman to Rogers; Bobby Leslie's role is to ensure that the "middle of the road" policy is maintained. [Text] [Belize City THE BEACON in English 5 Mar 83 pp 1, 2]

SEWERAGE SYSTEM AID--A further Agreement has been signed between the Belize and Canadian Governments for the completion of the Water and Sewerage System for Belize City. The agreement signed by Prime Minister Mr George Price in Belmopan provides for an input of some 54.4 million dollars to finalise water distribution and sewerage collection for the entire city of Belize. Of this amount 44.8 million dollars will be provided by the Canadian government through the Canadian International Development agency and 9.6 million dollars by the Belize government. The work not to be completed during the next five years includes the extension of the water distribution and sewerage collection service. Present for the signing ceremony at the Prime Minister's office were the Minister of Energy and Communication Mr Louis Sylvestre and his Permanent Secretary Mr John Longworth, the Financial Secretary Mr. Edmund Marshalleck, the First Secretary Development at the Canadian High Commission in Jamaica Mr Ross Pritchard, Mr. Jim Monoham Canadian project manager in Belize for the Water and Sewerage system project, and Mr William Hoy Chief Executive Officer of the Belize Water and sewerage system. [Excerpts] [Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 13 Mar 83 p B 1]

PUP NATIONAL CONVENTION--The National Convention of the People's United Party will be held on Sunday, May 29, at 10 am at the City Centre in Belize City. The date for the PUP Convention was set at a meeting of the Central Party Council in Belize City on March 23 at Independence Hall. Delegates of the 18 constituencies were represented at the meeting which was chaired by the lion Florencio Marin. Different topics were discussed and the delegates were frank in expressing their views in a real democratic and constructive manner. The Rt. Hon George C Price, Prime Minister of Belize gave the closing address. The meeting ended at 11.30 p.m. [Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 27 Mar 83 p 1]

DROP IN CITRUS CROP--The 1982-83 Citrus Crop which ends on 30 June will be substantially less than that of 1981-82, according to Belize Food Products Ltd. Indications are that the orange crop will be down by about 25%, while the grapefruit crop will be down by about 75%. The company says prices and demand for grapefruit concentrate are the worst in recent history, and the outlook for the next few years is poor. Orange concentrate prices, however, are holding up well and market trends are encouraging. [Excerpt] Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 27 Mar 83 p 5]

CSO: 3298/502

BRIZOLA DISCUSSES RIO'S PRIORITY ISSUES

Rio de Janeiro MANCHETE in Portuguese 12 Mar 83 pp 26-26C

/Roundtable interview with the new governor of Rio de Janeiro, Leonel Brizola, by MANCHETE reporters with moderator Murilo Melo Filho; in Rio de Janeiro, date not given/

/Text/ For an hour and a half, the new governor of Rio de Janeiro, Leonel Brizola, was questioned by the reporters of MANCHETE at a roundtable interview held in our building. He responded to numerous questions, such as his relationship with the Figueiredo government, the priorities of his administration, the problem of tourism in the state, the union of all Rio residents, the organization of his cabinet, his relations with the Socialist International. Here are the main points of almost 2 hours of conversation.

Brizola: "I am going to invest in youth." "There will be the best possible relationship with the federal government." "I will be a missionary and will work as I have never done in my life." "Tourism is one of the great natural vocations of Rio de Janeiro." "I am prepared to face the collection on my pledges." "My cabinet will be eminently political." "We are stimulating our international relations." "Brazil needs everybody without excluding anyone."

/Question/ What will be your behavior and conduct toward President Figueiredo?

/Answer/ The exercise of public power is impersonal. In the exercise of power in Rio de Janeiro, I will work impersonally and I believe that a climate of collaboration between the federal government and the state is an imperative of the public interest. I hope that once the initial inhibitions stemming from the election competition have been overcome, everything will become normal. The federal government needs the government of the state; that of Rio de Janeiro as well as of any other state in the federation. We know, furthermore, that in these times of centralization, the state administrations greatly need a climate of understanding that will permit joint effort. I particularly have great confidence in the innate sincerity that characterizes the personality of President Figueiredo. I have declared and I reiterate that I sincerely believe that he will not permit any of his aides to do anything against the interest of the people of Rio de Janeiro.

We shall proceed irreproachably in that regard. Any federal authority will have our collaboration. We will comply with the law and the regulations. By our pledges to the population, we assumed the government of Rio de Janeiro with concern for the social problems.

/Question/ What are the priorities of your government?

/Answer/ We have established some priorities and we have already set the one that we consider the priority of priorities, the maximum one, which is to prepare the individual for a better Brazil, for a Brazil that is really heading toward a future of greatness, in keeping with our territorial patrimony, our resources and the life environment that God gave us. The component of lack of education is a sort of preliminary for underdevelopment. We can ask for as much money as we can for investment. We can bring great structures with advanced technology. But if we do not educate the Brazilian people for the advent of that era, at the most we will reach the situation of a prosperous colony. Brazil will only be what we dream, will only be of the Brazilians, on the day that we face that basic component. When we speak of the individual, we have to speak at the outset of the greatest priority in that area, namely, the child, the adolescent, the youth. That is where we have to invest.

"The government of Rio de Janeiro will not be conventional. I will be a missionary."

The government of Rio de Janeiro will not be conventional. I will be more of a missionary. I am going to work as I have never done in my life, for the children. We have to save our children, educate them. I saw now in Japan that that was the objective pursued by the Japanese a century ago. Our children, educated, with medical care, 25 years from now will do all that we did not succeed in doing and that we did not have the courage to do. Working in that direction and with those objectives, I consider that the relationship with the federal government at all levels will be the best possible.

/Question/ Is it your intention to create mechanisms in each school capable of reeducating the children? Are you going to rely on financial aid from the federal government to cope with the problem of the abandoned minors?

/Answer/ The experience I had in Rio Grande do Sul leads to the conclusion that it will not be necessary to have large investments. It is necessary to have will together with the coordination of all social forces. I would put a complete school in a truck and would set it up on a hillside. If we have the collaboration of the people, of the businessmen, we will balance the finances of the state, and we will go out into the world urging foreign collaboration. Just now, we had contacts with the World Bank, where there is the possibility of loans almost on a contingency fund basis for purposes of this type. We are going to acquire a moral credibility that is going to give us more and more strength every day. I am certain that after the federal government and President Figueiredo observes one or two of these

schools, seeing the children eat and the kitchen operating, with that fraternal environment, it is not likely that they will not offer possible collaboration for a project of that type. Instruction, education and child assistance are a greater burden in their later operation than in the beginning, as an investment. They are a greater burden later because they require a whole machinery that has to operate. Even so, they represent a small part of the budgets. The means and funds will not be lacking for that project. I do not plan to work with grandiose ideas but modestly, through simple schools without frills.

/Question/ Do you plan to establish reformatories?

/Answer/ That is a problem in all countries. I know that problem from the inside. I have already been in a juvenile home the atmosphere of which is the same as that of the reformatories, where the children are not saved. They are schools for deviating behavior, where the weaker do not get to raise their heads. Our plan is to build small boarding schools, mini-boarding schools, close to the schools, where there is always space to build two or three apartments, and lodge 20 to 25 minors there, close to a normal educational establishment. There, the children would associate with normal children and not with dangerous criminals. In Rio, we will experience an era of great creativity in terms of education. Our elites and leading classes have been responsible for the destinies of Brazil. A man like myself reached those conclusions through the hard-knocks of life, through living the problems. Through the confidence of the people, I have now reached a level that permits me to make decisions, with limits, about that subject. I feel from the campaign that I carried out that that is the aspiration of the people, to which I am going to give all my strength.

/Question/ I would like you to speak a little about the problems of tourism, an area in which Rio de Janeiro has a fabulous potential.

/Answer/ The new government is being inaugurated with only a very deep conviction in that regard. That is one of the great vocations of Rio de Janeiro. It would be difficult for us to find an area like this anywhere in the world. We might find a similar one but none that will surpass us: with this tropical climate down here, that marvelous, incomparable seacoast, and the mountains, there, a few kilometers away, with a pleasant European climate, with a great level of economic experience. We possess everything for a great effort in that area. I would feel pretentious if, having gone through the experience of an election campaign and beginning my activity as governor, I were to assume a position of arrogance, ex-cathedra, saying that we should do this or that. The problem is of greater importance: it is a natural vocation of the state, which is prepared for this. It is one of the great roads of its future. Immediately after my inauguration, I am going to convene a seminar, with the broad participation of all that immense community that operates in the area of tourism. We have our contributions to offer. We must develop a tourism of a popular nature to fill the blanks in an experience similar to the one I saw in Uruguay where domestic tourism is intense, with a 1,001 enterprises. The important thing is that the state government assume

a vigorous, coordinating attitude. We can offer great collaboration to the federal government because it is Rio de Janeiro that has know-how about tourism. We can collaborate with it for a national tourism policy. We are going to extend broad invitations for that seminar, which may last 2 days, 5 days or even a week. Rio de Janeiro is a state that is emerging as a unit of the federation. Until now, it has been a sort of arrangement and from now on it needs to assume its role, asserting itself and showing its personality as regards what is its due in the country as a whole as a right and a duty.

/Question/ Do you believe in a union of all inhabitants of Rio de Janeiro?

/Answer/ Here in Rio de Janeiro, we all need unity around some principal questions, independent of the factions and the differences between one another. With regard to this or that matter, we are all closed. With regard to the rest, we may differ or discuss. But on basic matters, we need to be united as the natives of Minas, Sao Paulo and Rio Grande do Sul are. There are no longer any political parties or division over the defense of soybean. The Paulistas have no differences over the defense of coffee. We here in Rio de Janeiro also need to develop that attitude of cohesion, getting our deputies to speak with one voice regarding some well-defined subjects, that are the vocation of the community, our future and the future of our children.

/Question/ Instead of setting up those grandstands every year, would it not be possible to build a permanent place for the parades of the samba groups?

/Answer/ We all remember the carnival as it used to be. Now it is no longer that popular festival. We also need to make an opening in the carnival area. I have an open mind to discuss that matter, creating conditions so that the people will participate more, eliminating certain deviations and distortions. I believe that the parade of the samba groups must be as broad as possible. We have time to work in that regard. A more open democratic order is going to enable us to have that discussion which was not possible for many years. Without much expense and investment, we can adopt measures that will improve the Rio carnival.

/Question/ Is the Rio - Sao Paulo Axis Going to Operate? Yours will be one of the governments in the country on which the most demands to collect on pledges will be made. Do you believe that your party can supply you with the technical and administrative cadres to cope with that level of collection?

/Answer/ I am prepared to cope with that collection. I want to see how those collectors will proceed. As for the people, who are the ones who have the authority to make demands of us, I feel an expectation and a confidence in the future. The people are the ones who create the least problems for a governing official; even much less, the people of Rio, who had not had a change to elect their governor. I will probably have some difficulties in that regard. I am prepared for that. I am going to work with good faith. I am aware of those difficulties. A governing official always deserves a credit of confidence, a time to show what he came to do. My administration

will be dynamic, working with good faith on behalf of the people. I will not be able to perform miracles, but I will not fail to take advantage of all potentialities. As for the cadres, our party really based itself essentially in the new generation. In the Democratic Labor Party (PDT), we will not have much difficulty in forming the later staffs of our administration. But we do not intend to be restricted to them.

/Question/ How will your cabinet be?

/Answer/ Our campaign was very broad. We received the support of many people, of leaders who are not enrolled in our party but who followed us in thought and deed with their vote and with their own actions. There is not another area in Brazil other than Rio de Janeiro richer in human cadres in all fields of art, culture, techniques of administration. I am like a fish in water. I will not have difficulties. If the organizer of the Brazilian team was in a situation like the one I am in today, I guarantee you that he would organize a team of the very first order. For each position that I need to fill, I can say that there are numerous persons qualified to occupy it. And there is an enormous number of capable people who are politically reserved. Without parties, they vote for candidates, they are inspired by the situation of the moment and I am certain that they are not going to deny me collaboration. I expect to be able to respond to the popular expectation at the time of organizing my cabinet and, later, the second and third echelons, which we are going to hasten to fill. My cabinet will be eminently political. Of course, if I can find an expert with political sensitivity, so much the better. But essentially, it is going to be a political cabinet. Only thus can the future government have a broad vision of its responsibilities. And we need to restore the good name of the politicians so that they will not continue to be considered opportunists, careerists, adventurers. No nation builds its destiny without the politicians, the public men who really represent the population. If they do not behave on the basis of those standards, our effort will not serve any purpose. I now feel much greater opportunities than when I was governor of Rio Grande do Sul.

"We Are Very Much in Tune With the Socialist International on the Foreign Level"

/Question/ You are the only Brazilian politician who has international ties, in this case with the Socialist International. Now, beginning your term as governor, will there be time to maintain that link? Do you plan in some way to use those contacts for your administration in Rio de Janeiro? How does that international contact tie in with your future government?

/Answer/ We are seeking to carry out an effort that will have great influence from now on: that of the relationship of the political parties on the foreign level. We do not maintain any alinement with any international organization. We cultivate fraternal relations, some more formal, with all the areas that promote democracy, harmonious living together, more just, more egalitarian society, a new international relationship. For that reason, we consider ourselves more in tune with the Socialist International--which, after all, is a

historic name because today it is nothing more than a political forum, which gathers in the presence of the press to discuss socialism. It encompasses divergent tendencies, such as the Social Democratic Party: the Norwegian, Swedish as well as Danish; which are not the same as the German; which is different from the Spanish, the French and the Portuguese. Within that diversity, I stand in the common area of the promotion of the individual. I made contact with that area called Social Democracy, and felt very well, at ease, learning much in that interchange.

/Question/ What is the importance of that relationship for Brazil?

/Answer/ I believe it is of the highest importance for us to question the situation of Brazil and of the Brazilian people, having a good international relationship that gives us a presence in world public opinion, existing and operating independently of the great centers of political and military power. Tomorrow, when we face our problems, we will be able to count on the support of a lot of good people who are out there working for a better world. We plan to continue to carry out that effort and hope that the other parties will also do the same. As governor, I will not be able to continue presiding over the PDT, which will now be presided over by my comrade Doutel de Andrade. Our Senator Roberto Saturnino is now performing the job of coordinator general of the party. I am thinking of asking my colleagues to name me secretary of foreign relations of the PDT. Right now, at my inauguration, we will have the presence of many important international leaders. To take advantage of their presence, we will hold a seminar on the topic "Socialism, Democracy and National Sovereignty in Latin America." The discussion on that subject is fascinating because the world is resuming its initial course. The Russian Revolution was an important thing but it froze discussion and did not resolve the problems of freedom and democracy. At a certain time, the Cuban Revolution was fascinating but it took paths that do not serve us. And the problems are different here. The whole Cuban bourgeoisie fitted in Miami. The Brazilian bourgeoisie would not fit there; it would fill that whole gut of Miami and clog up the sea. To resolve the impasses that are here, it is necessary to have a system of freedom, filled with social justice. I could even say, a Third Republic with a libertarian content. On the ides of 1964, we had dreams, questions raised, aborning, embryonic, with romantic overtones, much misunderstanding, errors on both sides. If we erred, those who made this regime erred even more. Brazil needs everybody without excluding anyone.

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CSO: 8142/1022

LEITAO DE ABREU VIEWED AS PRESIDENTIAL TIMBER

Career Reviewed

Rio de Janeiro MANCHETE in Portuguese 12 Mar 83 pp 52-53

/Article by Alexandre Garcia: "Leitao de Abreu, Presidential Timber"/

/Text/ The name of the chief of the Civilian Household is also included in the list of probable candidates to succeed President Figueiredo.

The greater part of the lists of candidates to succeed President Figueiredo are forgetting a very important name: Joao Leitao de Abreu. The hand of destiny appears to have offered him positions that are natural steps in the direction of the goal coveted by every politician: the presidency of the republic.

Minister-Chief of the Civilian Household during the Medici administration, from 30 October 1969 to 15 March 1974, he held broad powers in the civilian area. Some even say that he was a virtual prime minister. At 8 A.M. in the morning of Friday, 7 August 1981, he was invited to occupy that position once again following the departure of Minister Golbery. He considered it for 3 and a half hours and decided to accept the offer.

He returned to the position and reassumed his powers. He enjoys the greatest confidence of President Figueiredo and he is the official in the Executive Branch toward whom the whole civilian area of the government converges. In addition to that administrative power, he also holds great political power: he is the official in the Executive Branch with whom the government leaders in the Legislative Branch deal. Having been a justice in the Federal Supreme Court during the period between his two tours of duty as chief of the Civilian Household, he attained the position of president of that institution which endows him with a permanent aura of jurist and magistrate. As can be seen, his power spreads over the three branches of the republic. That is quite a factor in considering his presidential possibilities.

A native of Rio Grande do Sul from Cachoeira do Sul, he is going to be 70 years old on 6 July. In this case, his age is more of a stimulus for him than for a 50-year old candidate, who may still have other chances ahead of him. He has already been a journalist (JORNAL DO POVO, CACHOEIRA), participated

in the 1930 Revolution, enlisted as a soldier. But he was against Vargas in the Estado Novo in 1937 when he was imprisoned in the House of Correction of Porto Alegre. He was held incommunicado for 1 month to the point where the light hurt his eyes when he came out.

Graduating with a law degree in 1946, he was named director general of the Secretariat of Education and Culture of Rio Grande do Sul. Later, he became a professor of administrative law in the Law School. In the revolutionary period, he was chief of the Civilian Household of Governor Ildo Meneghetti. In the Castello government, he became office chief of Justice Minister Mem de Sa. At that time, Mem de Sa suggested the name of Leitao de Abreu to Castello Branco to succeed Meneghetti.

When Mem de Sao left the Justice Ministry, Leitao returned to being a law professor at the Federal University and the Pontifical Catholic University (PUC) in Porto Alegre. At that time, he was elected president of the Gremio [soccer club], of which he is an enthusiastic fan. He is the brother-in-law and close friend of General Aurelio de Lyra Tavares. It was following the junta of which Lyra Tavas was a member that Medici brought him from Porto Alegre to become chief of the Civilian Household of the Presidency.

Professor Leitao got to know General Joao Figueiredo at that time and began a friendship that became consolidated over the years. Colonel Octavio Medeiros was deputy chief of the army in the Military Household; Minister Delfim Netto was in the Finance Ministry. Today, the men who became friends at that time meet again in the daily 9 o'clock meetings in the presidential office.

His performance in the Supreme Court earned him the label of liberal. Although some categorize him as a jurist, he prefers to argue that every man is a political animal. There are those who call him a centralizer but others prefer to say that he is primarily an organized man. In addition to Gremio, he likes music, literature and to listen to foreign radio programs. But above all, he adores his six grandchildren. Those who describe his style best, vow that what he likes is work because he is a deeply responsible man.

In December, he was in his native land to receive a tribute. One of the things that give him pleasure is to go back to Cachoeira do Sul. There he permits himself to indulge in informal exchanges among friends.

It is not without reason that his name shines in the list of presidential timber. In the first place, he is a civilian. He is not a man simply linked to power; he is power itself. In order for Andreazza to conduct his affairs, for example, he needs the green light from Leitao. Before the leaders Marchezan and Aloisio Chaves direct the position of the majority party in the chamber and in the senate, they receive the guidance of Leitao de Abreu. Before spokesman Carlos Atila speaks to the press, he talks to Leitao de Abreu. Before his decisions, Figueiredo consults his minister and friend, whom he admires. The presidential speeches themselves are prepared or reviewed by Professor Leitao. Even economic affairs are discussed between him and Delfim.

That is why one can speak about the hand of fate. Placed in a key position, because the government's administrative and political affairs converge toward him, Leitao de Abreu was later led to apex of his legal career: the presidency of the supreme court. Then fate again led the magistrate to the central position in the government, where by virtue of his powers, he exercises the government function closest to the president of the republic. Because he is so close to the presidency, Professor Leitao de Abreu cannot be left out of the lists of presidential timber. Whether he or another will be elected, it is the PDS convention in 1984 that will say.

Family Life

Rio de Janeiro MANCHETE in Portuguese 12 Mar 83 p 52

/Article by Murilo Melo Filho: "Grandpa Leitao de Abreu"/

/Text/ With the auditorium completely filled, more than 2,000 persons being present, Professor Leitao de Abreu delivered the major lecture to open the courses of the Federal University of Rio. He was then the all-powerful chief of the Civilian Household of the Presidency of the Republic at the time of President Medici in 1973.

At the moment, he had divested himself of the power that he embodied to be simply the professor of Introduction to the Science of Law of the University of Rio Grande do Sul. He began by expressing thanks for the great honor of experiencing for a short while, in spiritual communion, that solemn hour in which intelligence readied to undertake another of its great collective flights in the quest to gain and increase knowledge.

When he completed his 1-hour talk, he received a standing ovation from the entire audience. Almost all of the thousands present later went to congratulate him personally.

On his return to Brasilia, he joined his grandchildren Cristina, Pedro, Carolina, Rodrigo, Joana and Caudio, who are his great friends with whom he has fun at the Ipe Farm. It is with them that he finds his best moments of relaxation. Four of them are children of Maria Patricia, married to Mario Martins de Lima, a company executive. And two others are daughters of Corina, married to Torquato Jardim, a lawyer. All were born in Brasilia.

When Professor Leitao de Abreu was in the supreme court, the contacts with his grandchildren were more frequent. Now they have diminished a little, not only because of his greater duties and commitments as chief of the Civilian Household but also because of the greater distance between Plano Piloto /Pilot Plan/ and the Ipe Farm.

He usually repeats a famous phrase of Oswaldo Aranha's, to whom grandchildren are children with sugar. The grandmother is Dona Iracema Pessoa de Abreu, daughter of General Pantaleao Pessoa, who was chief of the Military Household

of Getulio Vargas. When he invited him to be a justice of the supreme court, President Geisel asked him if he was not accepting the invitation just to be close to his grandchildren, who then already lived in Brasilia, as they have until now.

Professor Leitao de Abreu is the brother-in-law of General Aurelio de Lyra Tavares, who is married to his sister Isolina and who was army minister and a member of the military junta that succeeded Marshal Costa e Silva. He has another sister, named Filomena, and a Brother, Marino, 3 years his elder.

The mother of all of them, Dona Ana, was 90 years old when she learned of the selection of son Joao to be the new chief of the Civilian Household of the Presidency of the Republic. Lucid, she considered herself happy over the appointment but at the same time concerned over the difficulties that her son was going to face.

No less concerned was Professor Leitao de Abreu himself when he received President Figueiredo's invitation.

"The Brazil I am going to find is not the same as the Brazil of the time of the Medici government. It is a much more complex country, just as the world is also more complex. In any case, the liberalization will remain the same. If President Figueiredo called me to join his government, it is because he wanted my collaboration in the political liberalization process. He was the one who set that goal and, therefore, the plan will be carried out. I find strange the opposition's distrust regarding the presidential commitment. How can anybody distrust the word of the president of the republic who has promised and reiterated the promise to democratize the country, by holding direct elections for governor?"

As chief of the Civilian Household, grandpa Leitao de Abreu is one of the great guarantors and executors of the democratic liberalization plan. For that very reason, he is a strong candidate to succeed President Figueiredo.

8711

CSO: 8142/1022

ECONOMY MINISTER SAEZ DISCUSSES SOLUTIONS TO ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

Santiago ERCILLA in Spanish 30 Mar 83 pp 8-10

[Interview with Chilean Economy Minister Manuel Martin Saez by Rosario Alvarez P.; date and place not specified]

[Text] His beautiful home in Lo Curro reflects his success as a businessman, which began when he imported the idea of selling sliced, packaged bread on the domestic market. His two married daughters work with him. Manuel Martin Saez's current position as economy minister did not fall unexpectedly on his shoulders. An acquaintance of President Pinochet since before 1973, the chief of state offered him his present post a few days before his official designation. He accepted because "I felt that I could be useful." Reluctant to give personal opinions, he uses a smile to soften his dodging of certain questions or his refusal to voice views on certain issues.

[Question] From the viewpoint of the businessman who has just taken office as economy minister, what are Chile's main problems today?

[Answer] Well, I obviously came on the scene at a time when the international recession, compounded by several domestic problems, was reaching somewhat of a peak, as everyone knows. But the best efforts were being made to have these fluctuations in the world economy affect us as little as possible.

[Question] Which of these internal problems are the most serious, in your judgment?

[Answer] A number of decisions were kept in force too long, such as the case of the dollar, which fortunately was corrected before I arrived, and that adversely affected the nation's production sector, exporters and the entire country.

[Question] What is the aim of the recently announced economic measures?

[Answer] In the first place, stability, because there was an element of uncertainty that could be felt by all, and then looking for a way to get activity in the country moving again so as to reduce unemployment and head towards a slow but steady recovery.

[Question] Through what methods?

[Answer] Well, there are two types: to produce the recovery and to enhance stability. Renegotiating debts is one of the former.

[Question] But only about 12 percent of the people who owe money would benefit, and only 30 percent of the debts could be rescheduled. Do you think that this is enough to spur a recovery?

[Answer] This is an important measure, and the remaining debtors can also renegotiate part of what they owe with their banks, as has been explained. It might not be all that people want, but it is something.

[Question] Have other ways of helping in this regard been looked into?

[Answer] We have to make further ongoing adjustments; that is normal, given that the world is dynamic and the economy too.

[Question] Can you let us in on any of these further adjustments?

[Answer] The major ones have already been made, and in this regard the concern over economic issues should decline. It is true that in the current situation people are constantly talking about the economy, but what each of us has to do now is to devote himself to doing the best work he can, and if there is a little improvement, unemployment should go down.

[Question] But the fact is that an unemployment rate of 30 percent, including the PEM [minimum employment program] and the POJH [heads of family program], is worrisome...

[Answer] Well, we have another recovery measure aimed at agriculture. We are going to give incentives to produce more in Chile, thus cutting our expenditures on food.

[Question] Through the announced purchasing authorities, for example?

[Answer] That's right, and seeing to it that international prices do not depress our prices at a given moment in the harvest.

[Question] There are those who feel that the measures came too late...

[Answer] Wheat and other crops have not yet been planted, and in any event, better late than never.

[Question] Many believe that the measures will serve to "close tax loopholes" rather than to stimulate the economy, the tariff measure, for example.

[Answer] That is, in fact, a revenue collection measure, but you have to look at the plan in its entirety.

[Question] Minister Caceres said that there was a conspicuous lack of resources, but the 30 percent of our work force that is unemployed and our production capacity that has been idled by bankruptcies are resources. Isn't there any way to utilize them?

[Answer] How would you do it?

[Question] That's what I'm asking you.

[Answer] We are studying all possible alternatives. That's why I think that working in a team is good, because various opinions are analyzed. People have wanted to see these differing views as lack of unity, but I think that they are necessary, because they stem from work in a team.

[Question] In our economic situation, the tradeoff is said to be between inflation and unemployment, and it seems that you opted for the latter...

[Answer] The system of automatic adjustments was selected because of the crisis. The crisis caused the prices of our raw materials to decline overseas. The value of the dollar was frozen, and the difference in inflation rates produced the upheaval that we have now quelled. There are now signs that the recession is ending, especially in the United States, which is the most important country. We then made several needed adjustments. Our country has to keep looking for the best thing to do at each moment.

[Question] And what is best thing for right now?

[Answer] Well, if all the announced measures are implemented, they are designed to improve the situation or at least to prevent it from deteriorating further.

[Question] Could you give me projections in timetables and figures?

[Answer] Look, I'm not an economist, but I think that the worst thing we can do is continue talking about timetables, figures and hopes. Once the framework has been set up, we have to get to work, not anticipate new measures. We cannot remain motionless, but neither can we jump around all the time; we have to adapt as well as possible to the circumstances, which do not depend only on our country. I think that that is what the president was talking about when he spoke of a "pragmatic free market social policy" (emphasis on the first word).

[Question] What we need is a measure to get things moving again, not just adjustments.

[Answer] We lack the resources for that.

[Question] The unemployment rate is 30 percent, and we have idle capacity...

[Answer] What we need is money, domestic and foreign funding to generate internal funds with our operating capacity, and this is achieved by means of an ongoing process. At one point, imports were practically being subsidized, which obviously impaired our capacity to generate capital. This has now been halted with a realistic dollar and the exchange policy that we all know about, and I think that the trend should begin to reverse now. But this can't be done overnight...We can't work miracles.

[Question] Why can't the government prime the pump?

[Answer] Because we need resources. If the government just prints money, it causes inflation.

[Question] And wouldn't a controlled inflation, through a reasonable expansion of the money supply, concurrently stimulate production, even if prices rose somewhat initially?

[Answer] We're now getting into an area that has been debated a great deal. We have evaluated a variety of opinions, and the package of measures is the result. Moreover, domestic credit has ultimately been expanded. In addition, we have to accept the conditions of the International Monetary Fund.

[Question] What exactly were those conditions?

[Answer] I don't have them here in detail, but we all know perfectly well what they are. There is a ceiling on the budget deficit.

[Question] The ceiling was reportedly increased from 1.7 to 2.5 percent, approximately.

[Answer] That's right.

[Question] And do you think that that is enough, since the gross product has declined by 14 percent?

[Answer] That was the basis on which the economic program was formulated. We have to keep in mind that the strong inflow of foreign funds that we saw in 1981 has now come to a halt. This is a real problem for the entire world, which was hit by a liquidity crunch. This is the problem.

[Question] One of the ways of generating liquidity is to issue money...

[Answer] I can't get into this area, because the reasons why one path is selected are a matter of internal study. It is very easy for those outside to say "do this or do that." Major action is necessary at times, and if something has to be improved, it gets improved. If more money comes in, so much the better; if more funds are generated, so much the better.

[Question] Not just better, but apparently indispensable.

[Answer] Agreed, but you can't generate something from nothing. Creating jobs is a slow process, and helping debtors is obviously going to help many people. The same goes for selling off the housing stock, which was an enormous problem for the construction sector, which is a major source of jobs.

[Question] What you're doing is selling off the housing stock, not increasing demand.

[Answer] But people wanted to buy homes. What happened was that they were hesitant, because they were waiting for a lower floor on housing prices, and this was a vicious circle that we had to break. Now that it has been broken, fresh expectations have been created.

[Question] Do you think that people are going to stop speculating with the dollar?

[Answer] Why not? The exchange market had to be controlled, and measures were also taken so that export earnings are received earlier and so that imports are not "prepaid." Whether these measures should have been taken earlier is another matter. We decided to take them now.

[Question] How do you think foreign banks are going to react to these measures, now that Minister Caceres has gone to New York to renegotiate the foreign debt?

[Answer] Well, I hope, because the necessary contacts have been made and the necessary studies conducted to present the country's actual situation to the banks. And international banks want to continue doing business with Chile, because from a global standpoint we are doing quite a bit better than other countries, and it is not to their advantage to see debtors go broke. What they can't do is demand payment immediately. In the long run there has to be an agreement; there can't not be one.

[Question] Do you think that government activity and public enterprise can create jobs? Is there any specific plan in this regard?

[Answer] Obviously. We have been in touch with international lenders and we are looking for a way to earmark the proceeds, both domestic and international, that we take in.

[Question] How much do you plan to invest?

[Answer] I don't have the figures right now. I'm going to be better informed next week, because since I just got here, I have been caught up in the emergency plan. In any event, however, we are going to assign a more active role to CORFO [Production Development Corporation], which we can already see in the decision to grant lower-interest loans for new projects. Now as far as state-run enterprises are concerned, there have been published reports that some have posted profits and others have posted losses. I can't tell you much more, because I've just begun looking into this.

[Question] Is the new utility rate scale, which calls for new charges to consumers, such as for new hookups, another way of generating revenues?

[Answer] No. The way to generate them is through rationalization, a very hackneyed word. If there has been criticism of the rates, it is due to a lack of information, and clarifications are going to be made public next week to fill this gap. The new rates resolve contingent problems, in the case of CHILECTRA [Chilean Electric Company, Ltd.], for example.

[Question] How do you expect to generate new resources then?

[Answer] Well, that's a question of believing or not believing. I feel that we have done the best we can with our available resources. The most important measure had already been taken, the devaluation of the dollar, which brought about a real change in our currency. And that measure was already something of an improvement itself.

[Question] But do you think that the announced measures are sufficient to noticeably boost demand and employment in, shall we say, a year's time?

[Answer] Look, I respect the ideas of others, because there is no reason to believe that we have a monopoly on the truth. But I am sure about one thing: we cannot expect a booming recovery, a miracle; that is utopian. I think that we did the best we could. Like everyone, I have my own opinion.

[Question] But you have not voiced your opinion. Would you rather be known as a team player?

[Answer] I've always been that way. I'm not stubborn, but I am emphatic when there are no arguments to refute what I believe is important.

[Question] In other words, you voice your opinion to the rest of the team, but you would rather not make it public.

[Answer] (Smiles). No.

[Question] Why?

[Answer] Because it would be illogical, because it would be giving the impression that there is discord, and that is not the case.

[Question] But people want to get to know the new minister, because he has broken a tradition in recent years of the economy minister being an economist trained in the Chicago school. Now suddenly we have a civil engineer and a businessman.

[Answer] Look, if you want to know what I think, I think that things have to be studied, alternatives listened to and then the best answers chosen. I'm a pragmatist, and if there are better ideas, they come out. I do not think that I have a monopoly on the truth, but I do stand firmly by my convictions.

[Question] There are those who feel that a reasonable expansion of the money supply would be possible, to stimulate demand and, hence, job creation. What's better: inflation or 30 percent of the work force idle?

[Answer] (Thinks for a few seconds and smiles) We have done the best we could, as I said before. What you're bringing up is obviously another alternative.

[Question] And what is your opinion in this regard?

[Answer] We decided on this prescription and we have to continue with it.

(He has a thoughtful look on his face for a while and then smiles again. The economy minister spoke for 2 hours. Manuel Martin the businessman spoke afterwards...but with the understanding that it would be off the record.)

8743

CSO: 8148/1139

NEW LIBERALISM LEADER DISCUSSES ROLE OF OPPOSITION

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Mar 83 p 7-A

/Article by Martin Alonso Parra: "Galan Insists on Supporting Betancur in Facing National Crisis"/

/Text/ Pereira, 13 Mar--In Risaralda, the New Liberalism party has reiterated that the current administration should be supported because the country is in a very deep crisis and warned of the consequences for Colombia of the economic recession, which may worsen if tax legislation is not approved in the Congress of the Republic.

New Liberalism leader Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento made these statements during a weekend tour of various Risaralda municipalities, where he characterized his attitude toward President Belisario Betancur's government as "outside support".

Galan Sarmiento added that, in the context of these difficulties, "it is necessary to act very responsibly in taking political action; this government cannot be weakened because to weaken it would be to oppose it."

He advocated a reassessment of the concept of opposition in Colombia because "in the past it only generated serious radicalism by aiming solely to systematically discredit whoever was in power. Opposition entails maturity and at the same time, those in power must have a degree of awareness necessary to respect the right of those not in power to criticize and monitor the government. Now we are progressing toward a new notion of what monitoring of the government should be," said the liberal leader.

Economic Recession

The New Liberalism leader gave special attention to the current economic recession, stating that tax legislation cannot be expected until June or July and that this recession is inevitable, as are its problematic consequences.

"Many investors are going to continue to delay making decisions and this will affect the climate of recession in the Colombian economy even further."

Referring to the two major challenges facing the country at present -- public order and the economic crisis -- Galan Sarmiento said that "while we are aware of the repercussions of the former, they do not seriously endanger institutional stability."

On the other hand, "no one is putting a halt," to what he called "the unresolved economic crisis, with its impact on the numerous unemployed, who are burdened by all kinds of problems."

He stated that the "highest national priority" was to stimulate the economy, and he warned that this year and the next would be difficult.

"In the past, state resources were poorly managed and the bureaucracy expanded irresponsibly for political reasons; now we are reaping the fruits of these errors.

"We will not allow Special Foreign Exchange Account resources to be squandered again to pay domestic debts as they were under previous governments." With respect to the inflation and fiscal deficit generated by those actions, the New Liberalism leader revealed that the government was aware of the irregularities 3 years ago and that former President Lopez was consulted regarding the need to declare an economic emergency; however, he did not believe it appropriate, for reasons unknown.

Galan Sarmiento criticized former President Turbay Ayala for having turned to international loans to meet operational expenses. He stated that while under Lopez, of each \$100 generated in international market transactions only \$11 went toward debt amortization, under the last government \$35 were used for this amortization and for interest payments.

The liberal senator was of the opinion that the current economic emergency was caused by governmental negligence, since former President Turbay, the transition committee and even President Betancur were aware of the crisis, the deficit and the magnitude of the foreign debt at the time, but delayed implementing article 122.

12351

CSO: 3348/281

RAMIFICATIONS OF 'UNDERGROUND ECONOMY' VIEWED

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 3 Mar 83 p 12

[Article by Martin Gester: "Money More Dangerous Than Guerrillas"]

[Text] Bogota, March--Colombia is hard to understand. In studying the economy of this Andean state, one arrives at a misleading conclusion if only the official statistics are considered. This is because they ignore the "economia subterranea." This "underground economy"--usually coyly unreported--can keep pace with the "official economy" in many fields: export, for instance. Experts estimate the Colombian Mafiosi pocket 2 to 4 billion dollars for covert exports of marijuana, cocaine, emeralds, livestock and tires. And we cannot forget that marijuana and cocaine--by far the most important export products--bring a much higher price on the North American coast. Since the connections of the Colombian "padrinos" extend to Florida, they probably are profiting by this huge markup too. Thus, it is very possible that crooks are taking several billion dollars to Colombia each year, even if they do deposit over half of the ill-gotten money in the United States and Europe.

The case of Felix Correa shows that these are not simply wild estimates. He was about to channel 660 million drug dollars from Switzerland to Colombia last year, but the deal was scuttled because, without knowing it, Correa had negotiated it with undercover agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

These billions in the hands of an unscrupulous clique are much more dangerous for Colombian society than all the guerrilla groups. If today the farmers are planting just marijuana, and the fishermen have only "material" on board in the smuggling province of Guajira, this is due to the financial power of the "grass kings" who offer many times over what these people traditionally earn.

The damage caused by import smuggling is even more serious for native industry. In every large city in Colombia, there are the "Sanandresitos"--named after the duty-free Caribbean island San Andres--who in the market halls openly and publicly offer products ranging from vodka and champagne to tape recorders and television sets. There are smuggled goods even in the show windows of respectable stores. On every other street corner, one can buy American cigarettes, brought into the country illegally.

The unfair competition has an especially severe impact on the textile industry. Sources estimate that up to half of all the cloth sold in the country has entered the country without passing through customs. The textile industry was once the pride of the Andean state, with giant concerns like Coltejer and Fabricato. The companies complained to no avail, and now their branch operations are marked by losses, mass layoffs and reduced exports.

The padrinos exchange a percentage of their profits into pesos as well. Since there are virtually no problems for them in making this exchange, the underworld supply became so great that for years Colombia was the only country in the world in which the dollar was traded for more on the official market than on the black market. In the past several months, however, the two exchange rates have equalized, due to the recent lower dollar exchange at the so-called "sinister window"--"ventana siniestra"--and to the brisk dollar buying by tax evaders. These known unknowns pay their personnel with pesos or provide themselves with a front for buying a hacienda or industrial stock. Neighbors then puzzle over the sudden wealth of Senor Castillo who one day owns villas and real estate.

Personnel Accounts

Banks are usually not far off when so much capital is concentrated in so few hands. "We face the choice," says a bank director in Bogota. "Either we fall back, or we get involved on a grand scale and thrive." Many have decided in favor of the entrepreneurial spirit. This was very convenient since usually it only entailed not examining too closely the origin of funds that had been "laundered" at points along the way to deposit. Then, too, experts assure us: it was "possible at almost any bank" to deposit a sum of money in a phoney account. It was easy to find a name and identification number. These were routinely obtained from the voter files containing data on the "living dead." Or borrowed from an unsuspecting chauffeur or maid. There is a joke making the rounds in Colombia recently: "Today in Colombia, the poorest are the richest--they just don't know it."

The banks did not have to look far for clients interested in the hot money. Even to solid companies loans were made of this untaxed, cheap capital. Whenever the government increased the reserve rate as a step to curb inflation, legal loans became more expensive, and the "underground economy" thrived so much the more. European bank representatives estimate that still over half of all bank loans are transacted in the so-called extramural market. It is therefore not surprising that the Turbay Ayala government, before it left power last year, was unable to exploit the flood of dollars for a growth program. Because the dollar has become an increasingly unmanageable second currency, the government's only recourse was to reduce by half and two-thirds the manageable portion of the money supply and thus choke any growth with extremely high interest rates.

Having once acquired a taste for it, some bank bosses were not satisfied with illegal transfers of illegal funds and began to line their own pockets as well. Felix Correa was especially good at this. The former filling station owner first went bankrupt when his customers discovered that he was "watering down" their gas. He then entered a second career as a "hip-pocket banker." He was

so successful at it that he decided to acquire a "real" bank. Insiders claim that he was loaned the money for the purchase of Banco Nacional by its owner. Correa's full endorsement of President Ayala's policies did not prevent his companies from suffering increasing losses. The final disaster struck, it is said, when 1700 kilos of cocaine were found in Miami on board a cargo plane out of Medellin. Even the very cautious North American drug investigators offer this version. They leave open the question whether Correa was directly involved in this cocaine deal or was forced to surrender because his partners had lost so much money in this "biggest bust in the history of the drug war." Felix Correa's recently arrested rise has ended in prison.

For several months, Jaime Mosquera has been keeping company there with this would-be banker: a man whose morals and qualifications were overtaxed. Director of the Banco del Estado, Mosquera--like the directors of other financial institutions--had amassed millions in credit using the ploy of fronts and nonexistent cattlemen to purchase the bank, later taken over by the state in a rescue operation.

Many government officials like many banks have likewise surrendered to big money. Shortly before Christmas, the "Procurador General," appointed by recently elected President Betancur, shocked the citizens of Colombia with revelations concerning members of the bank regulatory agency who all the way up to the director are alleged to have had full knowledge of shady transactions in the Banco Nacional and the Banco del Estado. Carlos Gomez reported that the inspectors of the two banks received loans under special terms. He also initiated legal proceedings against his predecessor, Anibal Zuleta, the Procurador General formerly responsible for administrative supervision. It is not surprising, given the corrupt example in the top-most ranks, that the Mafia had no major problems with the police and customs authorities.

It is no secret either that politicians accept the Mafia's campaign contributions. General Matamoros, the chief of the armed forces, told the correspondent of this paper that Mafia money poses no danger for the army. But other sources claim that even members of the military are paying for transfers to "profitable" departments.

Vigorous Action

The lords of the "underground economy" had it so easy in Colombia because they were dealing with a "sleepy" government where the system of party spoils and favoritism had increasingly blurred the distinction between helpfulness and corruption. The scarcely comprehensible interplay between "legal" and illegal corruption is apparently making it impossible for Betancur to risk closing the smuggling centers like the "Sanandresitos." Yet the new president has been able to do some things during his few months in office. One proof of the changes taking place is the flawless work being done by the new "procurador." Another is the more vigorous action in the banking industry. A bank director now faces 2 to 6 years imprisonment for violating a law passed as Bill 2990 last 8 October. But even an honest president cannot quickly put things in order in a country where for years the bosses of the "economia subterranea" have been accustomed to buying almost anything with their dollars.

9992

CSO: 3620/261

BRIEFS

INCREASED TRADE WITH FRANCE--Today Colombia and France will begin high level negotiations to strengthen their commercial ties and improve trade opportunities, especially in agricultural and livestock products. For this reason, Laurice Pechberty, who is responsible for matters related to Latin American agriculture and livestock for the French Ministry of Agriculture, is arriving in Bogota today. The official will meet with Minister of Agriculture Roberto Junguito Bonnet, and will later hold discussions with the sector's policymakers. Dr Pechberty will stay in Colombia for a week, during which she will analyze Colombian-French trade agreements and possible increases in the trade of some products. President Mitterrand's government wishes to improve its trade relations with Colombia and consequently has granted special importance to agreements currently regulating relations between the two nations. An expansion of trade is being proposed on the basis of statements made in Paris by the former Colombian minister of agriculture, Luis Fernando Londoño Capurro. /Excerpts/ /Bogotá EL TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Mar 83
p 9-A/

12351

CSO: 3348/281

CIENFUEGOS PARTY SECRETARY ON PARTY RESOLUTION

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 11 Feb 83 p 3

/Article by Aldo Isidron Del Valle/

/Text/ In Cienfuegos and other Cuban provinces the Resolution of the Sixth Plenum of the Central Committee has had a warm reception and promoted a spirit of work and struggle which, in the opinion of Humberto Miguel Fernandez, first secretary of the Provincial Committee of the Party, constitutes, as the commander-in-chief has affirmed, a work program for the party, the administration, the state and mass organizations.

The responses of the people of the South, the political leader stated, bear witness to this. They are contained in the pledges delivered to the party and to the government by all the organizations and mass organizations. They attest to their feelings, they obey heightened consciences and they reaffirm the deep knowledge and analysis of the Resolution.

The GRANMA correspondent, together with the first secretary, a member of the Central Committee, traveled through various zones of the territory destroyed by the rains that have been reported in the past few days and which have caused harm to the good rhythm with which the people of Cienfuegos are giving to the present sugar campaign and in other important sectors of our economy.

The climatic hardships, of course, produced the feeling of sorrow in people, but the chance misfortune was supplanted by the fighting spirit that encourages dedication to work and the resolve to accomplish the goals undertaken. Examples abound:

Cienfuegos, a sugar, industrial and port province, proposes to bring in 20,000 metric tons of sugar above the assigned quota this year, 3,355 more tons of molasses and 2,730 tons more of yeast.

The Struggle for Savings

"Through savings," said Humberto Miguel, "the Tricontinental Bulk Sugar Terminal, the port of Cienfuegos and the Cereals Combine will take in, due to fast shipment, 710,000 pesos in income; and under the heading of ship servicing, Consignatarias Mambisas, the Cereals Combine, customs and Cubacontrol will put 3,903,979 pesos into the economy."

At the Karl Marx Cement Plant, the largest in Cuba, its workers face a tight program this year, the production of which reaches 750,000 metric tons. They agreed, in response to the Resolution of the Sixth Plenum, to produce 25,000 tons more and to save almost 4,000 tons of fuel.

"In fuel savings," the first secretary stated to GRANMA, "practically all organizations and companies have set down in hard numbers their contributions to the nation's economy. As an example, we can state that among 13 organizations, including the Ministry of the Sugar Industry (MINAZ), the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Construction (MICON) and the People's Government, 17,831 tons will be saved.

"Among the most significant figures," he added, "are the 5,400 tons of the Cienfuegos power generating company, the 6,056 tons of MICON, including those proposed by the Karl Marx collectives, the 3,283 tons of MINAZ and the 2,000 of the People's Government."

While mentioning these fuel savings figures, I remind the reader that Cienfuegos is a province that has not consumed petroleum for the production of unprocessed sugar products in its sugar mills since the harvest of 1980.

Humberto Miguel tells us that this year the local industries will generate revenues of over 21 million pesos, and he points out that the recovery of raw materials, oils, lubricants and imported materials takes on fundamental importance in the province, just as, on account of reconditioning and manufacturing spare parts, the workers of MINAZ, Agriculture, the People's Government, the railways and the port took on obligations of over 670,000 pesos.

The movement of innovators and efficiency experts in Cienfuegos, in response to the Sixth Plenum, also foresees large balances coming from its present activities.

Obligations in Agriculture

Recently, the workers of the Ministry of Agriculture delivered pledges of obligations to the party leadership in which are noted substantial increases in their arduous tasks. Outstanding is the objective of producing over 100,000 quintals of food products over the program for 1983, which reaches one million 51,000 quintals; 50 quintals more of vegetables and half a million liters of milk (the plan calls for 36 million); in citrus, coffee, henequen, to cite other items, reaching higher goals is also proposed; all that in spite of the destruction by the recent rains.

Humberto Miguel told us that MINAZ "will produce for internal consumption 259 quintals of foodstuffs, vegetables and grain and 130 tons of lamb, pork and fowl."

In the conversation with the Cienfuegos leader, also discussed was the proposal by the farmworkers in the year of the 30th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Barracks; "the National Association of Small Farmers", he stressed, "is working to have 66 percent of the land converted to cooperatives, a figure representing a 20-percent increase over 1982."

This formidable work program set forth in the previously mentioned Resolution, by decision of the masses of the southern territory, will have praiseworthy effects in the area of education and culture, sports and public health, as is reaffirmed in their pledges.

In Public Health

For example, the health workers are fighting for the perfection of control and demand in the rendering of their services, through consistent application of the efficiency program and improvement in organization and the quality of medical attention.

In addition, they are adopting methods to improve even further the dental and laboratory services, medical assistance in rural hospitals, and they are giving priority attention to the Carlos J. Finlay detachment and the Mario Munoz student vanguard, plus perfecting instruction and developing an effective savings plan.

The Union of Young Communists (UJC) and the Mass Organizations

"In the same way," commented our interviewee, "the UJC and the mass organizations have set important growth targets within the work programs of their respective memberships, with emphasis on the tasks of saving, application of the austerity policy and efficient use of resources, and recovery of raw materials and support materials for agriculture and the sugar cane harvest, educational and health tasks, politico-ideological work, defense, the greater promotion of the Youth Technical Brigades, youth shock work projects, the spread of cooperatives and the expansion in farming areas of the new agricultural-livestock production methods."

These are some examples of the force that this mass movement has generated. They demonstrate the raising of consciousness and will of our people to respond actively to the ideological offensive of the enemy and his economic aggression.

"It reaffirms the will of the people of Cienfuegos," emphasized Humberto Miguel, "to build socialism and to proclaim with well-reasoned and considered concrete deeds in every work place, service center and workers collective the possibilities that exist for fully complying with the Resolution of the Sixth Plenum of the Central Committee and paying homage through daily acts to the heroes and martyrs, to those who fell on 26 July and being faithful to Fidel's trust."

Construction of Important Works Continues

The plan for the construction sector in the southern province for 1983 amounts to 153 million pesos. This important economic objective principally includes on-going work. Such is the case with the Electronuclear Power Station, the oil refinery and capital repairs plant, the agricultural-livestock cold-storage facility and the industrial construction support base as well as the expansion of the pediatric hospital (once completed, its capacity will increase from 143 to 300 beds).

In Cienfuegos, the works which will be completed this year for development of the port will be worth 10 million pesos. In addition, construction is continuing on the School of Medical Sciences and a Higher Technical Institute.

In the O'Bourke zone, the builders will give to the beautiful seaside city a workers polyclinic in its industrial center and, in Cumanayagua, a polyclinic-hospital. Also in this city, next to the Escambray Dairy Combine, a pasteurizing facility shall be erected.

Housing, schools, and other works of socio-economic benefit make up part of the program that the worthy men in the white helmets are undertaking throughout the southern construction zone.

The first secretary of the party praised the effort of the builders "who signed pledges in response to the Sixth Plenum of the Central Committee. They, as all the country's workers, are struggling and striving to make 1983 the Revolution's best year, with efficiency as the motto.

"Attendance at work," proclaims Humberto Miguel, "advantageous use of the work day, productivity and quality, are to be found in every worker, in every citizen and in each of our people's leaders. It is the best reply to the Party, to its resolutions of the Sixth Plenum and to our beloved commander-in-chief."

12349

CSO: 3248/598

RICE PRODUCTION INCREASES 9 PERCENT

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 15 Feb 83 p 3

/Article by Raisa Pages/

/Text/ An indication of the leap noted in the yields by area in rice production is the meeting of the production plan by the recently completed harvest, which rose to 10.8 million quintals.

To have achieved completion of the plan for the first time, in a year in which 333 of the caballerias /1 caballeria equals 1,343 ares/ sown were lost because of drought, which would have amounted to a greater accomplishment demonstrates how this cultivation is being consolidated.

Last year's production increased by 9 percent in comparison with 1981 and 800,000 quintals above the production record set 2 years ago.

The average yield by area of 1,075 quintals per caballeria shows the rise that this indicator has experienced, all the more if it is considered that this production efficiency was calculated without deducting the lost areas, which are noted with no production. Were they not taken into account, the yield would go up to 1,100.

In the last harvest, the yield had been 984 quintals per caballeria. Ten years before, only 581 quintals were obtained. Another example: in the year 1968, only 442 quintals were reached.

The national rice management, in an interview with GRANMA, pointed out that the rise in the yields per area, an essential element in order to continue increasing the production of this crop, is basically due to the introduction of a variety of high-potential Jucarito 104 on about 3,000 caballerias, to the best nitrogenous fertilizing in time and to the increase of the population indices per square meter of sown land.

The economic indicators also show good results. Commercial production increased by 7 percent in comparison with 1981 and earnings amounted to 107.6 million pesos. Of the eight enterprises that are in existence throughout the nation, every one went up in this respect, except Camaguey and Fernando Echenique, in Granma Province, which suffered damage to their sown areas due to the drought.

The cost per peso of commercial production was 83 centavos as a national average, and the efforts of the Sur de Jibaro enterprise are distinguished by its cost of 73 centavos, as are those of Fernando Echenique, with a cost of 76 centavos.

Total profits were on the order of 15.552 million pesos and all enterprises were profitable. As regards this, Sur del Jibaro and Los Palacios, in Pinar del Rio, had very favorable balances.

One should not fail to mention the benefits that have resulted from the introduction of the microfield--the initiative for which came from Fernando Echenique--and that it has allowed the simultaneous irrigation of a field covering 4 caballerias in the most rapid and efficient manner. The largescale development of this practice was started in 1981 and its introduction is continuing in the remaining economic entities.

Within the integral program for rice production development, there were instances of non-fulfillment of investments that were delayed, such as the reconstruction of irrigation systems and the plan for the construction of roads, in agreement with the Ministry of Construction, which will contribute, once completed, to the stabilization of production and the subsequent increase in yields.

12349

CSO: 3248/598

PRIME MINISTER SEES FRENCH ON AID DURING TRINIDAD VISIT

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 12 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] PRIME MINISTER CHARLES PAID, WHAT CAN BE CONSIDERED A 'HECTIC', BUT MOST PRODUCTIVE 24-HOUR BUSINESS VISIT TO TRINIDAD ON WEDNESDAY LAST (MARCH 9). DURING THAT 1-DAY STAY SHE MET OFFICIALS AT THE FRENCH EMBASSY AND THE MINISTER ASSIGNED TO THE 'CARICOM AID COUNCIL' OF THE TRINIDAD & TOBAGO GOVERNMENT.

Her meeting with the Trinidad-based French Ambassador was, primarily, to sign a 5-year aid agreement under the 'Fund for Aid and Co-operation' (FAC) facility. The culmination of this historic landmark, is as a result of the Prime Minister's initiative taken in March of 1982 when, on the invitation of the World Bank, she delivered a paper at the U.N. on behalf of OECD countries, on the 'Problems of Small States'. At that meeting, the Prime Minister took the opportunity to put forward a request for FAC membership.

Initially, the 'Fund for Aid and Co-operation' was meant to accommodate former French Colonies, but the French government has, from time to time, gone away from this criterion to assist deserving countries. Dominica is the first Caribbean territory to receive aid under this programme, and the first to sign the 'FAC' agreement.

Under this 'funding' facility, special priority is given to technical assistance. And, to date, Dominica has already greatly benefited. At present, there is a vigorous research programme into the geothermal potential of the island. Indications are that, since this commodity seems to be available in commercial quantities, this source of natural energy will be utilized for export.

In identifying projects for possible funding under the 'FAC' facility, the Prime Minister was quick to suggest the reconstruction of Princess Margaret Hospital, which was badly battered by hurricanes David and Allen, and extension of the Canefield Airstrip. "These," she said "are priority areas."

The amount to be received from the French Government through FAC is not given. However, it was disclosed that funding will be on an 'ad hoc' basis.

In her meeting with the Minister assigned to the 'Caricom Aid Council' (of Trinidad), Miss Charles dealt with a number of subjects. These included a

request for changes in the aid package. Of specific mention are (a) a re-appraisal of the size of the houses funded by the Trinidad & Tobago Government and (b) repairs to the Dominica Agricultural Marketing Board Building.

The Prime Minister requested additional funding for these projects at no further cost, since the initial amount agreed upon has insufficient due to rising prices.

The export of agricultural produce to Trinidad was another area considered, and grapefruit, bananas and plantains to meet 'Trinidad's 'schools feeding programme' received specific attention.

Since Trinidad is, at present, importing a fairly large quantity of edible oil and soaps from other Third World - no-Caricom origin countries, the Prime Minister emphasized the benefits to be realized from the purchase of such commodities from Dominican manufactures; which are available at much lower prices.

Joint approaches in the 'Timber Industry' and 'Agro Processing Plant' at Bath Estate were the last topics to meet the attention of the Trinidad & Tobago/Dominica negotiating team. And, according to the Prime Minister "the response was very favourable."

The Lady Prime Minister describes her meetings in Trinidad as being 'most congenial.' And, stated that 'there was a positive indication that both the French and Trinidad/Tobago Governments were anxious to help us in our developmental thrust

CSO: 3298/494

GOVERNMENT DELAYS PAYING TEACHERS' SALARIES

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 15 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] Teachers working in the interior of the country, including the capital and metropolitan area, say that so far they have not been sent confirmation of their appointments, as a result of which they have not received their salaries and their families' economic situation has become precarious.

In fact, reports from teachers working in the towns of San Vicente, Sonsonate, Ahuachapan, San Miguel and even the capital area say that they go every day to the local offices of the Directorate General of Human Resources to inquire into the handling of the confirmations, but there they are told only that "it is in the hands of the Under Secretary of Education and Director General of Human Resources in San Salvador."

In pursuing the matter, they say, they have had to "borrow colons and go to the capital, but in the ministry offices they are told by the secretaries that the latter's superiors are in conference and that it is impossible to see them, so that the teachers leave even more frustrated by this than by being without money."

The majority have identified themselves as having graduate and undergraduate degrees in education, but others have said: "We are teachers with many years of experience working under a ministry program to upgrade our status, and those in charge assured us that consideration would be shown for our situation and confirmation of our appointments would not be delayed, since we have only a little way to go until graduation and the regularization of our pay grades. However, without money in our pockets, it is difficult to buy study materials and attend classes at the technical assistance centers that the ministry's Office of Communication and Pedagogical Technology has installed in several of the country's important cities."

Delayed Lists

They have indicated that revision of the lists has been delayed in the offices of the ministry partially because the local offices themselves did not take care to turn them in promptly. In spite of this, they added: "We continue to report to our schools, where hundreds of children are waiting every day to be taught by us. We hope that this responsible attitude will be taken into account and that issuance of the confirmations that are so important to us will be speeded up."

INVESTIGATION OF GASOHOL PLANT IRREGULARITIES DEMANDED

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 17 Mar 83 p 6

[Commentary by Rene Turcios Farfan]

[Text] As if it were not enough that the former Revolutionary Government Junta, headed by the Christian Democrats, left us ruined, now one of the "juicy deals" concluded under that administration comes to light.

It has to do with a contract for the purchase of a plant for the distillation of the famous "gasohol" for the astronomical sum of more than 26 million dollars. According to documents that we have recently seen, this contract is replete with excesses and defects that raise a multitude of doubts and suspicions.

Some people think that we are faced with a definite case of corruption in high places that calls for investigation not only by the Constitutional Assembly, as the Council of Agricultural and Livestock Organizations has demanded, but also by the National Court of Accounts and the Office of the Treasury.

What is needed, however, is that these organizations not investigate in a nominal or pro forma manner but that they proceed legally and with all due rigor to conduct an investigation separate from any that the committee of the Constitutional Assembly may carry out and publish the results of such investigations, as well as the names of those responsible.

There has been too much talk of good intentions in fighting corruption. The time has come to demonstrate by deeds that this talk is not idle. We have to make examples of the guilty in order to root out the corrupt practices that always cost the Salvadoran people dearly.

The denunciation of the agricultural and livestock organizations appears to be well-founded, and they may well have in their possessions documents that prove mismanagement of the contract for the purchase of the Venezuelan distillery.

It is well to keep in mind that, as shown in the case of petroleum, Venezuelan aid has been more apparent than real. Officials of the Central Bank have

themselves revealed on several occasions that the crude oil always had to be paid for in advance, thus establishing the falsity of the claim that Venezuela gives us some sort of preferential treatment.

The affair of the "gasohol" plant seems to be something similar. For a multi-million dollar sum, they are selling us something that they already know will not work, since it has not worked in other countries that have experimented with similar plants. The explanation is that Venezuela has an astronomical external debt and is trying to recoup a bit by selling us a piece of junk.

The Salvadoran people is impatiently awaiting the summoning for investigation of the high officials who approved and authorized the aforesaid purchase, as well as of the lawmakers who issued the corresponding decree replete with "technical defects," as they admitted in their response to the agricultural and livestock organizations.

What has happened was only to be expected, since it has to do with an action taken by the former "mis-government," with which we are fed up and through whose fault, we now learn, our grandchildren will have to pay the astronomical sum of 26 million colons over the next two decades.

This new "white elephant" has to be frozen in its tracks, so that our hard-working people do not have to continue going into debt over their heads to pay for it.

12336
CSO: 3248/650

PAYMENTS FOR PUBLIC TRIALS CRITICIZED

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 17 Mar 83 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text] A report from San Miguel indicates that, since Wednesday, public trials have been suspended in the courts there and that, if some have been held, this is only because the interested parties put up the money to pay the jurors.

This news, apparently unimportant, is, on the contrary, of the highest importance, because, in addition to resulting in an injustice being committed against those in prison, the situation could give rise to the imposition of an onerous burden on the accused. The suspension of public trials is prejudicial to the defendants whose cases have already been entered in the docket and who are awaiting the setting of a date for a public trial, which now cannot be held owing to lack of funds to pay the members of the jury. The report from San Miguel asserts that the problem is not limited to that locality but extends over the whole Eastern Zone [Zona Oriental].

This could lead one to believe that numerous lawsuits could be subjected to arbitrary delays, obstructing the normal administration of justice. Every prisoner whose case has been entered in the docket desperately awaits the setting of a trial date, since he never loses confidence that the decision will find him innocent. But even if the verdict should go against him, he prefers to know at once and not go on "hoping against hope" day after day. Every suspension of a trial represents bitter frustration for the defendant and not only for him but for all those involved in the case.

Perhaps this explains why, according to the report from San Miguel, several public trials have taken place because the interested parties put up the money to pay the members of the jury. As the reader knows, not only sitting members but also their substitutes receive a stipend as compensation for the fact that, if they do not perform this obligatory duty, the court that summoned them will fine them. For this reason, specific funds are needed to reimburse each juror for his participation; however, if money is lacking because the disbursements office has not made it available, then the judge suspends public trials.

Nevertheless, since the relatives and friends of the accused are greatly interested it is common for someone to offer to put up the money to reimburse the jurors. This practice is practical, and it appears that judges have regularly accepted it. What is wrong with it is that, some day, one of the parties could use the situation as a pretext for requesting the annulment of a decision in a given case, or that the government, seeing that the interested parties, whose relatives may thus be freed, interpose no objection to paying the jurors, would impose this new obligation on them, at the same time leaving the practice established until the end of time.

Consequently, for the sake of those in prison and of the proper administration of justice, the necessary sums should be allocated to pay the jurors in Oriente.

12336

CSO: 3248/650

GOVERNMENT ANSWERS PPP CRITICISM OF BUDGET IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Finance Minister's Remarks

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 19 Feb 83 pp 1, 5

[Text] **FINANCE** Minister

Sallahuddin told the National Assembly yesterday that the new tax relief measures mean that some 12000 workers who earn between \$4000 and \$6000 per annum would come off the tax register.

Defending the fiscal proposal in the 1983 Budget against a scathing attack from People's Progressive

Party spokesman, Nambada Persaud, Cde Sallahuddin said big earners would also benefit.

He explained that persons whose chargeable income was \$40000 will immediately save \$1500 but Government was introducing new saving schemes to attract savings by those persons.

While it was true that consumers would pay more for beer, and a few other items, three things, — soft drinks, cinema admission and good brown sugar— would remain the cheapest in the world in Guyana.

Cde Persaud launched his criticism on the Budget by declaring that it contained only sweeping generalisations and experiments while putting the blame for the

current crisis on external factors.

He charged that the PNC Government's arrangements with the International Monetary Fund and such institutions were taking the country "down the drain".

Cde Persaud was critical of the new tax measures and declared: "The people's only hope is the PPP."

Replying, Cde Sallahuddin said while it was true that the PNC may not have achieved all it wanted to achieve for the nation, the record of rule of the PPP was worse.

He said the PNC brought independence and dignity to the nation and the opening of the second phase of the edible oil plant was evidence that industrial development was still taking place.

He paid tribute to the 31000 sugar workers who were keeping the industry alive despite difficulties with the world price for sugar and the disadvantage caused by the heavy subsidising of beet sugar beyond the cost of production in Guyana.

Speaking about rice, the Minister explained that the drop in exports

of that commodity was due to the fact that Guyana had been unable to keep some Caricom markets because of the inflow of rice from the United States.

He pointed out though that rice was being used to help Guyanese shuttle off dependence on an alien cereal.

Cde Sallahuddin also referred to the problems facing the bauxite industry because of its relation to the steel industry and competition from big multi-nationals.

The Minister refuted allegations that Phillip Brothers, which markets Guyana's bauxite, has any direct or indirect relations with South African companies.

Cde Sallahuddin admitted that some foreign experts had done work in the local industry but hinted that there was very little hope for small producers of bauxite until the steel industry comes out of recession.

Discussing the foreign debt problem Minister Sallahuddin said that a foreign company with international reputation has been employed by

the Government "to help us better understand our international financial agreements and the debt system."

The company, he said, had done work in Morocco, India, the USSR and Cuba, among other places.

Another international reputable corporation, the Minister said, has also been engaged to do a study of a select group of public corporations and promised to share the findings from time to

time, if necessary. Cde Sallahuddin told the House that this company specialises in reorganisation and financial control of corporate bodies.

He concluded his presentation by reiterating the PNC Government's commitment to its unequivocally stated social and political goals. "We remain constant in the pursuit of those goals," he declared.

More on Agricultural Thrust

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 19 Feb 83 pp 4-5

[Text]

More details about the agriculture thrust this year were given to the National Assembly yesterday when the general debate on the 1983 Budget opened in Parliament.

Vice-President for Agriculture Hamilton Green said there was no need to burden one Vice-President to present all the details in the Budget speech as more information would be given by other Ministers in the Government team.

Cde. Green pointed out that most of the Budget for Agriculture would be administered by the Regions to ensure that the services are relevant and that they are delivered with promptness.

He said the Budget was intended to ensure an adequate food supply to the nation and to completely eliminate dependence on imported

food.

Alluding to calls from the Minority for wheat flour, the Vice-President pointed out that Guyanese survived during the second world war without wheat flour and can do so again.

"We are prepared to make the sacrifices for the objective," he declared. His colleague, Finance Minister Sallahuddin, replying to the Minority People's Progressive Party opening speaker Cde Narbada Persaud, disclosed that this year a total of \$65.3 million has been allocated to the Regions for expenditure as compared with \$27.9 million last year.

He said all rumours about retrenchment should be scotched and explained that what has been done is the deployment of most of the human resources into the Regions for production.

Employment costs alone have been estimated at \$14.4 million as compared with \$8.3 million last year and there would be an immediate increase in the work force of about 25 per cent in the Regions.

Cde Persaud had charged that Government policies last year did not stimulate agricultural production and called for planned proportional development with emphasis on agriculture.

He quoted figures to support his statement that agricultural production has declined and alleged that in order to correct the situation in the sugar industry, the Government planned to close down two sugar factories and remove the subsidy on the domestic price for sugar.

However both Finance Minister Sallahuddin and

Vice-President Green, in that order, quickly pointed out that sugar was still being sold at the cheapest price in the world in Guyana.

Vice-President Green added that he was not aware of any plans to close factories.

During the first session of the debate yesterday afternoon, Speaker Sase Narain appealed to Members on both sides of the House to maintain a high standard and avoid personal remarks which might cause the discourse to degenerate.

Speaker Narain said the House would sit in three sessions daily up to 10 p.m.

At least nine Cabinet Members, including Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid, who is to wind up, will speak during the general debate. Detailed consideration of the Estimates will follow, probably next week.

PPP Objections

Georgetown MIRROR in English 20 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] The 1983 budget being debated in Parliament is yet another typical PNC anti-working class package, which fails to get to the root of the problems tormenting the nation. Fixed at \$1.3 billion in expenditure, and with revenues only pegged at \$0.9 billion (\$985.9 m) it leaves a gaping record \$484.0 m deficit. The virtual deficit in 1982 stood at \$350.3 m, while in 1981 it was \$354.6 m.

Economics Minister Hoyle who tabled the budget referred to a "strategy for survival" enshrined in it, and based his argumentation on the tenor of President Burnham's address to the opening of the current Parliamentary Session. He itemised the survival measures, which on close analysis are a half-hearted attempt to come to grips with reality, and a clear recipe for rightwing economic policies.

Taking the whole budget as a package, Guyana will surely survive, but will end up in a worse position by year end. The trade deficit is estimated at \$343 m with further cuts in consumer goods from \$111 m in 1982 to \$99 m in 1983, with items like cheese being totally eliminated. Among the imports is textiles which is fixed at \$21 million, compared to \$13.6 m in 1982 and \$29.9 m in 1981 despite all the ballyhoo of growing cotton at Kimbia etc.

The same spectral imbalances stalk the budget proposals as usual, with debt charges leading the way at \$456 m or 35 per cent of the total budget (capital and current). In order to help meet the deficit huge foreign loans, credits, grants, etc are hopefully lined up totting up to \$334.4 m.

The other big expenditure is for security which stands at \$141.6 m for the army and police or 10.8 per cent of the total budget. However in keeping with the sudden "agricultural thrust" some \$146.9 m or 11.3 per cent of the budget has been set aside for agriculture. In comparison, the other major or controversial allocations are as follows:

Ministry of National Development \$5.2 m; Ombudsman a meagre \$69,000; Foreign Ministry \$18.2 m; Health \$56.2 m or 4.3 per cent; Housing & Works \$5.4 million or a shocking 0.4 per cent! This indicates little housing activity for the low income bracket by government. The changed format of the estimates as presented conceals the actual portion to go to "housing" as distinct from "works." Education is \$91.3 m or 7 per cent; and Manufacturing (finding jobs) only \$4.7m or 0.3 per cent.

PPP Leader Cheddi Jagan who will be winding up the debate for the opposition, in an invited comment remarked:

"The 1983 budget eases the rich and squeezes the poor. The reduction of the 70 per cent income tax band to 50 per cent is a concession to the high-salaried political and bureaucratic elite.

The \$48 million package of extra taxation, linked up with previous heavy impositions is oppressive. The same PNC nearly burned down Georgetown in protest against a PPP budget of only \$10 million in taxation in 1962.

The Budget does nothing to reduce the high cost of living, to curb the crime wave, to ensure job security, to ensure adequate consumer supplies, to curb the growing exodus of skills, etc., to assert economic independence and to tackle the crisis in a meaningful way.

Blame for 'Parallel Economy'

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 Feb 83 p 8

[Text] A member of the Minority Party in the National Assembly, Cde Reepu Daman Persaud, yesterday called on the Government to do more than legislate in order to deal with the parallel economy.

Declaring that his party did not support the parallel economy, Cde Persaud said that it was the lack of foresight on the part of the People's National Congress Government that was causing the phenomenon to flourish.

According to Cde Persaud, the Government should have produced substitutes first before banning certain items instead of banning first and then appealing to the farmers to produce.

Cde Persaud said it was common knowledge that bread was being sold openly outside Stabroek Market.

The PPP Member said the farmers can produce other crops than rice and plantains but what was lacking was a comprehensive plan, in the absence of which, the House was being treated to theories that had no foundation.

Cde Persaud said Guyana's potential for agriculture was realised by the Dutch since the 17th century and the British had made infrastructure inputs.

He claimed that all the major agriculture schemes--MMA and Tapakuma--had been planned by the PPP and the PNC Government delay caused the costs to increase beyond the nation's resources.

He also called for action on a scheme at Danje and one in the Pomeroon.

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Feb 83 p 15

[Text]

PRIME Minister, Cde Ptolemy Reid, and PPP Minority Leader, Dr Cheddi Jagan Monday agreed on several issues but disagreed on methods of finding solutions to them as they wound up the general debate on the 1983 Budget.

Both speakers based their presentations on economic and ideological issues.

The veteran politicians agreed that the Socialist path is the right one for Guyana but disagreed on the line of approach. Both agreed that the role of the media is important to Guyana but disagreed on how the media should implement national policies.

The presentations were based on the following issues.

- The importance of good planning strategy to find the correct way forward
- the increase in trading and economic relations with Socialist countries
- the importance of the media in educating the Guyanese public,
- the role of the school in making Guyanese aware of government policies, particularly the agricultural drive
- genuine democracy, and
- Socialism

Speaking on the role of agriculture as the way out of Guyana's economic troubles, Dr. Jagan accused the government of misleading the Guyanese people into believing that agriculture was the only way out.

The Prime Minister observed that his government never said that agriculture is the only way out but regarded it as playing an integral role in the nation's economic recovery. He noted that agriculture is capable of providing the base of

Guyana's industrialisation.

Dr Jagan also charged that the government had allowed agriculture to sink in response to the machinations of the USA.

But Dr Reid said that his government has a good track record in agricultural development and cited the opening of the vast hectares of agricultural lands resulting from irrigation schemes such as Black Bush Polder Mahaica / Mahaicony / Abary and Tapacuma.

"But we are not following agriculture alone," he noted, "One has to think about agro-industry."

In response to Dr. Jagan's contention that good planning strategy is needed to find the correct way forward, the Prime Minister explained that such a strategy is being implemented with "self reliance" as the objective.

"Development is serious business" Dr Reid said and challenged the minority to play a part in fostering the country's development. He explained that development is not always going up. There are times when obstacles are encountered.

Dr Jagan urged the government to improve and increase its trading and economic relations with other socialist countries.

Responding, Dr Reid stressed that trading relations must be based on mutual respect and told the House that while Guyana is prepared to trade with any country, "we seek partnerships not charity."

In his presentation Dr Jagan castigated UF parliamentarian Mr Abraham for suggesting that socialism is to be blamed for Guyana's sorry economic state. The

PPP Leader charged that the PNC is hiding behind socialist rhetoric.

"In spite of the rhetoric our economy is linked to the capitalist world resulting in sugar and bauxite being in crisis, he contended.

Dr Jagan further stated "capitalism is in crisis, not socialism" and suggested that the government is abandoning its socialist path.

But Dr Reid refuted Dr Jagan's allegations by stressing that "socialism is not an overnight thing adding that "the foundations are being laid."

Dr Jagan also charged that the PNC is trying to find scapegoats for its mistakes, and called for an open debate on ideological issues.

Noting that the media has an important role to play in the education of the masses, Dr Jagan expressed dissatisfaction over its operations.

He felt that the national media should be managed by an independent board so as not to be a mere PNC organ. He called on the government to provide newsprint at low cost and allow opposition views to be carried in the local media.

Dr Reid in response, told the House that the international media acted against the people and even made the people act against themselves.

He also explained that the Minority party's organ the Mirror gets newsprint and the PPP's views are heard by means of the national press and radio.

He agreed with Dr Jagan that the media has an important role to play in the general development of the people, and advocated caution in the use of certain expressions. He condemned the use of the phrase "import sub-

stitution" saying it gave the impression that the local product is inferior to its foreign counterpart.

The Prime Minister told the House that the school has an important role to play in making children aware of the government's

policies, while at the same time encouraging them to participate in the agricultural thrust. "Every school child must understand the language of farming," he stressed.

Earlier Dr Jagan had called for community management of the nation's schools. Dr Reid explained that this is provided for in the regional system.

The Prime Minister further refuted Dr Jagan's

claim that there was an absence of genuine democracy in Guyana.

In wrapping up the two-day general debate, Dr Reid told the House that the Ministry of Agriculture will provide the services necessary to keep agriculture viable. He added that there will be no retrenchment. However deployment of personnel will take place in accordance with the country's need, the Prime Minister noted.

PPP Walkout

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Feb 83 p 24

[Text] Consideration of the estimates in the \$1.3 billion 1983 Budget ended in the National Assembly yesterday afternoon in just under two hours following a walk out by the Minority People's Progressive Party (PPP).

No objections were raised as to the allocations of funds in the estimates by United Force parliamentarian Lincoln Abraham, the lone opposition member remaining in the House.

The PPP Members of Parliament led by frontbencher Boysie Ramkarran walked out of the House after Speaker of the House Sase Narain ruled against a contention made by Reepu Daman Persaud that the 1983 Budget estimates were not presented with enough details as required by the Parliamentary Standing Orders.--(GNA)

CSO: 3298/453

HEALTH SERVICE CHARGES, DEVELOPMENT PLANS ANNOUNCED

New Fees

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 20 Feb 83 p 4

[Text] The Ministry of Health is to introduce nominal charges for certain health services, in an effort to generate revenue for some of its programmes.

The charges which become effective on March 1, 1983 are:

--A one-dollar prescription fee at general clinics at the Georgetown, New Amsterdam and Suddie Hospitals and the West Demerara Regional Hospital.

--A two-dollar prescription fee at specialist clinics, such as diabetic and hypertension clinics, run at the four institutions mentioned above. No charges will be made for ophthalmic care or the treatment of social diseases, Hansen's disease, tuberculosis and psychiatric care and

--Dental services fees including a three-dollar extraction fee, a five-dollar "filling" fee, and a maximum charge of twenty-five dollars for full-mouth dental services.

Students 18 years and below, old-age pensioners, and maternity cases will be exempted from these charges.

In an interview Wednesday, Health Minister Richard Van West Charles said the Ministry decided to introduce these new charges because of current economic difficulties, being experienced nationally.

"Although we have a right to free medical care enshrined in our Constitution, this right only comes from surpluses generated from within the national economy," the Health Minister noted.

The new nominal fees which will cover the cost of stationery and other incidentals, are expected to earn the Health Ministry about one million dollars during 1983, the Minister said. (GNA)

Plans for Expansion

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Health services in Guyana will expand this year, particularly in the rural areas despite the difficulties prevailing, Minister of Health, Environment and Water Supply Dr Richard Van West Charles told the National Assembly yesterday.

He said efforts were being made to reduce the infant mortality rate and to minimize teenage pregnancies and that contraceptives will now be distributed at health clinics.

Wastage

Cde Van West Charles who spoke before Minority Member Ramkarran criticised the health and social services, said his Ministry was geared to support the agriculture thrust by ensuring a healthy nation.

He said there would be measures to prevent and control diseases like malaria and dengue fever by increased surveillance and monitoring.

The Minister also spoke of plans to provide adequate drugs at the community level and to avoid wastage.

District and regional hospitals will come on stream in Black Bush Polder, West Demerara, Kumaka and Charity and the eastern bloc of the Palms would be rehabilitated.

Training of community health workers for Regions 7 and 8 was in progress to complement the work of the 85 Medex already trained.

Cde Ramkarran spoke of a shortage of milk and other nutrients and wondered about the quality of health of the children in another 10 years.

He said a new development in the health system would allow the Government to raid the National Insurance Scheme funds to pay for treatment people received when such treatment was free in colonial days.

Further Cde Ramkarran called on the Government to take action to correct what he called "a grievous situation," relating to water supply.

Change

Minister Van West Charles said the Government had spent some \$115 million on water alone since it took office and further development is continuing with new systems coming on stream at Linden and Bartica.

Alluding to Minority criticisms about rice flour, Cde Van West Charles said there was a problem of change with the people who failed to reject wheat flour.

He was confident that the programme planned by his Ministry would support the agriculture thrust and he invited "our detractors" to join in the development of the country.

GOVERNMENT OUTLINES POSITION ON MEDIA TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 20 Feb 83 p 10

[Text] The National Media must be owned, managed and operated to serve the public interest.

Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Cde. Yvonne Harewood-Benn said this to the National Assembly on Friday night during the debate of the National Budget, adding that it was not the intention of Government to suppress publications by other parties.

The Minister said, "It is not our intention to suppress or deny the opportunity for private or individual interest to publish as they wish."

Control

Comrade Benn pointed out that other papers are in fact published and explained that Guyana National Newspapers had gone as far as to provide other parties with newsprint.

"Not only do they provide them with newsprint but my understanding is that the paper is cut and prepared properly."

The Minister then explained that the importation of newsprint was governed by the same licence control as the importation of all materials and affected the country's foreign reserve.

Replying to an allegation by a PPP back-bencher that private publishers had not been allowed to receive gifts of newsprint, Cde. Harewood-Benn said:

"For any Government to allow gifts of newsprint to privately-owned media would be to open the flood gates of external intervention in the national and internal affairs and we cannot make any apology for refusing to condone this. We are either a sovereign nation or we are not," she declared.

Challenge

The Minister told the Assembly that the Government had never established statutory regulations to control and censor the privately-owned media. And as far as she knew, the leader of the Government had never banned anybody from his press conferences.

She pointed out that the Ministry of Information had a vital role to play, relevant and germane to the country's development and progress, to ensure that our tremendous potential is not a cliché, but a fact.

She added, "We will continue to do our work fearlessly and with pride," Cde Harewood-Benn quoted Lenin as saying: "The only correct function of mass communication is that of an instrument in the hands of the party and the transmission belt between the party and the masses."

She said that the budget was one of self-reliance, underpinned by many practical and real conditions. "It is an incisive budget, a budget of challenge and vision," she asserted.

CSO: 3298/454

ENERGY MINISTER APPEALS FOR SUPPORT OF GOLD PLAN

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Energy and Mines Minister Hubert, Jack yesterday called on the Minority in the National Assembly to support measures which would be introduced this year to ensure that gold producers report their production accurately and sell the gold to the Gold Board.

"We are determined that so long as people produce gold they must report it. Those who find themselves unable to do so will go out of production," the Minister told the House.

Earlier, replying to remarks by People's Progressive Party Member Reepu Daman Persaud, the Minister admitted that producers were deliberately cheating the economy by only reporting a fraction of what is produced.

Cde Jack observed that gold was "a national natural resource which is non-renewable" and declared that the nation was entitled to a better return from gold production.

President Forbes Burnham had hinted at the radical re-organisation of the gold industry in his speech to the opening of Parliament earlier this month.

Cde Persaud had alleged that gold was being stolen from the Gold Board and the Minister said that without referring to any matter which is now before the Court, his information does not suggest that any stealing of gold was involved.

Cde Jack quoted figures to show the underreporting of production and said he hoped the Government could rely on support from the Minority Party when the measures to encourage the development of the gold industry are introduced.

Giving information about other developments, Cde Jack said uranium exploration was continuing and there were indications of fairly rich deposits.

He said a company was now engaged in quantifying the reserves to establish whether an economic venture was possible.

About oil, Cde Jack said that while the glut in the world market seemed to have caused the enthusiasm among oil companies to diminish, the Government had made arrangements for a well to be drilled in the first half of this year.

He said that in the latter half of the year exploration would start in the North-East (Corentyne area) for heavy oil similar to what was found in Suriname at depths of about 1,000 feet.

Minister Jack said a decision is to be taken within another month on a \$128.5 million hydroelectric station but by the end of March there would be the first phase of a biogas plant while plans for conservation of energy are being pursued.

CSO: 3298/454

TACTICS, CONTRADICTIONS IN PPP, WPA POSITIONS CONDEMNED

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 20 Feb 83 p 7

[Article by "Correspondent": "PPP Noted for Talking...and Not Doing"]

[Text]

If the situation were indeed as the agglomerate of political has-beens, who are now engaging in "all party talks", claims, and if the greatest danger to the development of the Guyanese people was the PNC, then the so-called talks in pursuit of unity summoned by the most reactionary forces in the church in Guyana, would have been an admirable exercise.

But the very notion of development must be based on certain explicit or implicit premises, and parties or groups who come together, or desire to come together, must achieve a consensus as to the general direction such development should take. It is against this thesis, unanswerable and incontrovertible, that one must examine the "talks".

The PPP, according to the WPA, "a party of over thirty years experience", has always claimed to be Marxist-Leninist or Socialist. Yet one of its allies, the VLD, a party of two really, the Trinidadians would call it a fete, is described by the PPP itself as reactionary and

uncaring for such concepts as Socialism and Imperialism.

The VLD attacks the leadership of the Suriname government and the PPP calls for all-out support of the same government. The VLD unapologetically and enthusiastically embraces capitalism; the PPP argues that capitalism is a scourge. The VLD would have all the significant public sector enterprises denationalised and handed over to private enterprise; the PPP not only urges that there be no denationalisation, but also contends that the foreign-owned banks must be nationalised. What common concepts of or approaches to development are there, as between these two disparate political mountebanks?

It is obvious that the only thing they have in common is the desire to supersede the PNC in Government. But the PPP has "condescendingly" conceded that the PNC is anti-imperialist. Further the PPP is neither so purblind nor mendacious as to deny that it was the

PNC that domesticated and nationalised and brought under Guyanese control the huge foreign owned industries, Demba, Reynolds, Bookers and Demerara Company, now Guymine and Guysuco.

Which then, the VLD or the PNC is more likely to pursue the Socialist development of Guyana?

As for the WPA, one of whose leaders has earned the dubious reputation of being the most outstanding leap-frogger in politics — he was in the PPP, the PNC, Ascria, now in the evening of his political days, he is in the WPA — what can be said of this adventurist group?

It came to notice posing as left-wing group, while its leaders had the easiest and automatic entry into the USA. It is now wrangling with the personal representatives of one of its late leaders as to who is entitled to the funds left behind, and out of Guyana. It alleges that the PNC came to power as a result of collusion with national and international capitalists. Of course at the same

time it is forgetful of the fact that its leap-frogging leader was very much a part of that collusion, if collusion there was. We have had it on the best authority that our friend, the leap-frogger, was one of the strongest advisers of the President, then Premier, urging the latter to coalesce with the United Force.

Maybe the WPA which clearly in its document presented for the so-called "All Party Talks" eschews any attack on capitalism or imperialism, and is in fact merely the VLD wolf in cub's clothing, hopes to have its "collusion". It has already taken many steps in this direction. It never attacks in these days the U.S. administration's policy or position on any matter, even that of South Africa. To do that would be to take a front-running position on international matters, which it now claims should be avoided. To further burnish its new medal of reaction it does something unprecedented in the history of Guyanese politics; it appoints a top ranking member of its executive — "a dear lady" — as liaison to the American Embassy in Guyana. Now that it is

exposed for what it is, now with its persistent campaign to undermine whatever little support remains to the PPP particularly in the Corentyne, it resorts to pleading with the PPP to forget and indulge in suicide.

Let it be recalled that the leap-frogger once called for the partition of Guyana along racial lines. Let it be recalled that the leap-frogger was once expelled from the PNC for being racist in his utterances. Let it be recalled merely for the record, that one of its members, one Hinds, was arrested, tried and convicted for unlawful possession of ammunition and arms including three high powered rifles and two revolvers.

It is obvious that the WPA was merely invented as a superficial, leftist group to undermine the national thrust towards socialism. Its leftist mouthings were considered necessary in the context of Guyana where history, past and recent, has shown that there is no place, no possibility of popular support for, a straightforward rightist, capitalist, neo-colonialist political group.

Let the PPP be reminded of the tactics

used to smash the Black Panther movement in the USA. This took the form of introducing the greatest revolutionary-speaking numbers as agents provocateurs who infiltrated the organisation and like Franco's fifth column in Madrid came out at the correct time to join the enemy with dire consequences.

The PPP has been noted for talking and not doing. It has been noted for its inability to apply its Marxism which it has learnt by rote to the circumstances of Guyana. It might have read with greater intelligence, care and patience, the writings of Lenin. Obviously, this party "with over thirty years of experience" according to the WPA, has learnt nothing and forgotten nothing. How are the mighty fallen!

Is it not obvious that if by a miracle the machinations of the Catholic Standard, the VLD, the WPA and the naive PPP were to succeed, the first group that will be decimated and annihilated by the other members of this unholy alliance will be the party with "over thirty years of experience" — the PPP? This is what their Marxism should have taught them.

AMERINDIANS IN SOUTH FACE STARVATION, FLEE TO BRAZIL

Georgetown MIRROR in English 20 Feb 83 p 4

[Text] Starvation stalks the South Rupununi savannahs. Whole Amerindian families are crossing the border into neighbouring Brazil, along with their cattle. Food shortages, malaria, malnutrition, lack of services, corruption, high prices, unemployment, coercion and PNC lies have all brought the Amerindian population in those parts to naked poverty and destitution.

This depressing information reached the MIRROR after former PPP Parliamentarian and Organisation Secretary, Harry Persuad Nokta, recently visited the Rupununi and spoke to residents. For months the PPP representative was faced with barriers placed in his way in his effort to visit the various Amerindian communities. "When I reached there I clearly understood why the government wanted to keep me out," he said. Just prior to his visit the regime sent out various personnel to do some patchwork to hide the two decades of neglect of Guyana's indigenous population.

"The burning problem today is water," said Nokta. He explained that a severe drought has hit the area. Cattle are moving deep into the savannahs where they suffer heavy losses due to rustling and attacks by tigers. He nailed the lies peddled recently in parliament by a PNC minister that scores of wells have been put into operation in the Rupununi. "None of the windmills are working," he said. "People, along with cattle, are getting dehydrated."

Recently a tiger attacked a school child and devoured him. These dangerous animals are prowling the area and the poor Amerindians have no weapons to defend themselves except primitive bows and arrows. The tiger that killed the child was later killed by parents with arrows. The animal's head is now on show in the Rupunau school.

At Lumidpau, another attack occurred while Nokta was there. A home was "visited" by a tiger. The dog was attacked. A woman gave the alarm. Villagers who were at the time meeting Nokta gave chase. The animal was hit with an arrow but escaped. The fear is that it will return.

Farming is dead. Tools are in short supplies and expensive--\$25, for one file. No transportation is there to take their produce to markets. Wild animals are ravaging the farms. Added to this is the closing of most of the airstrips, the

latest being Aishlalon. Others created during the PPP term in office and now closed include Sand Creek, Awariwaunau, Marunanau, Shea and Whulabai. The only two working are Lethem and Lumidpau. To get to Lumidpau from Shea, residents have to walk 54 miles. Some go on bull-carts Government transport system is lacking. There is one "push-start" vehicle which cannot cope with even the transportation of medical and other personnel.

Practically all shops are closed. No goods! In the border area Brazilian goods are plentiful but expensive. Amerindians scarcely have cash. Their cattle are bought cheaply. The abattoir at Aishalton is not working at full capacity. The animals have to be taken to Lethem. This takes five and more days. In the current drought some 50 lbs are lost from each head of cattle during the long trek.

The youth are leaving to seek jobs. They too are being given a raw deal. At the moment some 50 balata bleeders have been waiting for six months for their 50,000 lbs of balata to be transported. No village councils are functioning. The PNC village captains have no authority. There is a lot of bullying of Amerindians. Many have to do slave work. Recently in Aishalton some took to the streets in protest against the little "caesars" who are pushing them around.

The PPP representative has reported that in all villages Amerindians are suffering from fever, diarrhea, coughs, and other illness. Fewer and fewer children are going to school. Parents object to the hard labour they have to "donate" to the school farm. Many of them are hungry, living merely on fruits.

In Maruranau village there is a serious state of malarial infection. No less than 25 persons are infected in that village alone. The Malaria team up there has no vehicle nor medicines. Other villagers are infected and it is spreading rapidly.

Many Amerindians were fooled into buying Defence Bonds. They were promised guns. Fear was driven into them by the PNC. They were told that the Venezuelans would attack and kill them at any moment. Several families, including a PNC Village Captain went deep into the mountains in hiding for days during which time the Venezuelans were supposed to attack Guyana.

The Party's Organising Secretary visited many villages covering some 250 miles on bicycle. The villages include Karaudaranau, Aishalton, Awariwaunau, Shea, Rupunau, Shiriri and Sawariwau, Makushi, Ambrose, Sand Creek.

In speaking to the MIRROR he said that his trip has been a victory for the party since the PNC would like to hide the poverty to which it has condemned the Amerindian people. The majority of them want the PNC to resign and allow a government of their choice. In all the villages Nokta was given a warm welcome and held discussions. Like in the past years, hundreds have renewed their membership to the PPP.

BRIEFS

STRENGTHENED TIES WITH SURINAME--Paramaribo--Guyana's Ambassador to Suriname, Mr C.R. Jones Wednesday reiterated Guyana's commitment to strengthening relations with the neighbouring Republic of Suriname. Ambassador Jones was at the time speaking at a diplomatic reception hosted at his residence in Paramaribo on the occasion of Guyana's 13th Republic Anniversary. Acting outgoing Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Glen Sankatsingh, echoing Ambassador Jones' remarks, said that relations between the two republics have been firmly established. Suriname's Army Chief, Lt Col Desi Bouterse, was represented by outgoing Minister of Army and Police, Captain Ivan Graanoost. The diplomatic reception was part of a programme of activities organised by the Guyana Embassy in Suriname to commemorate Guyana's 13th Republic Anniversary, and President Forbes Burnham's 60th Birthday Anniversary and his 30th year as a Parliamentarian. (GNA) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 25 Feb 83 p 1]

1981 GOVERNMENT BORROWING--During 1981 the PNC regime obtained overseas loans to the total of \$245.1 million. This is a colossal sum for a small nation to borrow and its heavy impact is already being felt. A report by the Ministry of Finance for 1981 mentioned the loans as follows: [1] Caribbean Development Bank--US\$5 million; [2] Caribbean Development Bank--US\$25,000; [3] Caribbean Development Bank--US\$1.0 million; [4] International Development Association--SDRs 6.3 million; [5] IBRD (World Bank)--US\$14 million; [6] IBRD (World Bank)--US\$1.5 million; [7] IBRD (World Bank)--US\$23 million; [8] Inter-American Development Bank--US\$6 million; [9] Inter-American Development Bank--US\$12.7 million; [10] OPEC--US\$10 million; [11] CIDA--C\$2 million; [12] CIDA--C\$0.2 million; [13] Short Bros. Ltd.-- 0.5 million. Converted into local currency, the Ministry says that the loans tot up to \$245.1 million. It further pointed out that during the year 130 external loans and 112 internal loans were serviced. There were also 14 new loans contracted, while 8 loans were fully repaid. Issues of Treasury Bills totalled G\$6,592,008,000, (6.5 billion) and redemptions totalled \$6,537,614,500 (\$6.5 billion)...meaning that \$54.3 million in Treasury Bills were still outstanding and unredeemed up to 1981. While the Report claims that 14 overseas loans were received, only 13 were listed. [Text] [Georgetown MIRROR in English 20 Feb 83 p 4]

EXPANDED RICE CULTIVATION--The Other Crops Division of the Guyana Sugar Corporation has placed an additional 280 acres of land under the plough in preparation for this year's first rice crop. The acreage would expand the division's rice operation at Manarabisi to 1150 acres which were previously used for sugar cane

production. The division is concerned about the falling yields noting that 15,000 bags of paddy were reaped from the 850 acres plot at Manarabisi. According to farm manager Cde Sonny Bajkhan, recent yields were average and in the vicinity of 18 bags per acre. He pointed out that the cultivation suffered from caterpillar attacks which severely affected the crop. The last crop fell short of initial yields by six bags per acre but the quality of paddy was good, he said. (GNA) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Feb 83 p 7]

SUGAR PRODUCTION--GUYSUCO's factories aiming for a collective target last week of 9,815 tons of sugar, produced 8,820 tons or 89.9 percent of the estimate. This shortfall was due once again to intermittent work stoppages, as well as poor factory performances, principally at Blairmont, Wales and Leonora. So far, the industry's production effort has realised 29,510 tons of sugar for the year, an 87.8 percent reading of the 33,610-ton estimate. While the industrial relations climate was somewhat inclement, three of the four Berbice estates as well as Diamond, were able to surpass their weekly targets. A release from GUYSUCO said it was vital that the Corporation's first crop achieved the target set and workers were again urged to proceed along the known industrial paths rather than engage in stoppages since action of this type could be of benefit to no one. Meanwhile, the Corporation's Chairman will continue with his visits to estates in order to ascertain problems and speak to workers. [Excerpts][Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 20 Feb 83 p 4]

CSO: 3298/455

PRIESTS, WRITERS, THEOLOGIAN'S ISSUE APPEAL TO POPE

Reminder of Earlier 'Error'

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 3 Mar 83 pp 1-A, 17-A

[Article by Nidia Marin]

[Text] Mexican priests, writers and theologians appealed to Pope John Paul II to prevent the church from committing another historic error similar to that committed by the hierarchy during the struggles for political independence by the Latin American countries. At that time, it supported the colonialist state and condemned the fight of the peoples. They indicated that the unity of the church "has been disrupted" since "it has allowed itself to be affected by the fears and interests of the wealthy who have lost their privileges in Nicaragua."

Priest Manuel Velazquez, director of the Mexican Social Secretariat, A.C., and the other priests, theologians and writers referred to the letter that John Paul II sent to the bishops of Nicaragua. In their opinion, the Pontiff's word affects all the churches, especially those that "have been suffering imperialist domination and are trying to free themselves from it." They pointed out that the eyes of Latin America look toward Nicaragua "because the future of our Latin American peoples is in play there."

Francisco Soto, Miguel Concha, Luis del Valle, Amador Tapia, Sebastian Mier, Jose Luis Martin del Campo, Enrique Dussel, Angel Sanchez, Francisco Merino, Rogelio Orozco, Salvador Rosales, Daniel Escobedo, Baltazar Lopez, Rafael Quiroz, Jesus Ramos, Enrique Marroquin, Hernan Lemryse and 93 other people specified in the text that they wrote that the possibility of a model of autonomous development is in play in Nicaragua and the possibility of a committed church participating in the search for a project of the poor people themselves.

They stipulated: "Mexico has officially taken an active position of solidarity with the Central American peoples who seek their liberation based on the principles of the inter-American system and consistent with its own anticolonialist, anti-imperialist and nationalist struggle and the peaceful solution of conflicts, avoiding all intervention. The Mexican economic crisis threatens to weaken that bold international stand. In that context, any word of the church that is not in defense and definite support of the struggles of the poor can become a blow against them."

Warning to His Holiness

These people also stated: "We respectfully warn the Holy Father that it is a very delicate time for Nicaragua. The United States is trying to recuperate the domination over that country it lost. It pressures from outside by supporting the counterrevolution and inside supports the use of religion to denigrate the present Sandinist national project. It tries to harden the Sandinist regime in order to brand it as 'communist' or regionalize the conflict in order to intervene with the pretext of pacifying the region. In our opinion, the church's option for the poor in present day Nicaragua will be more effective if it critically supports the existing humanistic Sandinism."

Their appeal also recalled that the pope at the beginning of the 19th century, "disinformed" and influenced by his political alliances, supported the bishops and the colonialist state and condemned the fight of the Latin American peoples, calling them "rebellions" and "revolts" and recommending submission.

Another reminder was that another pope compared the Cardenas mobilization in Mexico with what was happening in Russia. This stopped the Cardenas movement "and a capitalist model, deplorable for the impoverished majority, entered our country."

They said: "We beg the Pope not to confine himself to the reports of the hierarchies." They also rejected, "with theological facts and reasons, the unjust use made of the Pope's letter to the Nicaraguan bishops as if it had been a condemnation of the Church of the Poor that remains heroically faithful to the Pope and his bishops but has taken up the risk of living its faith within revolutionary challenges. This is not a 'parallel' church. It is merely a concrete way of being the universal church without political power."

They stipulated that the Pope made a strong call for the unity of the church in his letter. "From Mexico we see that the unity has been disrupted when the church let itself be affected by the fears and interests of the wealthy who have lost their privileges. Instead of uniting for the cause of the poor, they have tried to 'instrumentalize' the church to make it serve their class interests."

They stressed: "True unity continues to be sought, not by denying the conflicts but by overcoming them. We recognize that they (government, people, hierarchy) must still take other steps to come together better. Meanwhile, we encourage Pope John Paul II to decide to issue a strong condemnation against those pseudo-Christians who threaten the Nicaraguan people from outside, whether they be former Somozist guards, the angry rich or imperialist forces."

Finally, they implored the Pontiff "to demonstrate your dialogue with the Nicaraguan people more clearly."

Further Details

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 3 Mar 83 p 6

[Text] Mexican priests and theologians told Pope John Paul II that a regime like the Nicaraguan one "that basically seeks a change in the political and economic situation of the majorities" would be greatly helped "if it found greater understanding of its basic objectives" in the hierarchy of the local church. Also it would be "encouraging for the Nicaraguan people if you, Holy Father, decided to issue a strong condemnation against those pseudo-Christians who threaten the Nicaraguan people from outside, whether they be former Somo-zist guards or imperial forces."

In a document signed by 111 Mexican priests and theologians commenting on the Pope's letter of 29 August 1982 to the Nicaraguan bishops received last February, the signers stated: "Certainly the massacres perpetrated on the borders of Nicaragua by these dark forces, at times in the name of an anti-Marxist Christianity, demand a condemnation. The special missions that the Nicaraguan regime has sent to the Holy See during the last 1-1/2 years to attempt a dialogue deserve a very extensive and clear response, in our opinion."

They implored the Pope that the Catholic Church must not commit another historic error similar to the one committed by the hierarchy when it condemned the liberation movements in Latin America at the time of our national independence. Later, during the Cardenas stage, it even compared Mexico to Russia in a papal encyclical. They pointed out that, since then, the church, "already isolated by other historic vicissitudes, has continued to lose credibility among those who see it tied to the economic and political oligarchies in spite of its pronouncements in favor of the impoverished and oppressed."

They added: "The future of our Latin American peoples is in play in Nicaragua because the possibility of a model of autonomous development is in play there and the possibility of a committed church participating in the search for a project of the people themselves." They indicated that Nicaragua is in a very difficult and dangerous situation due to external and internal attacks and threats. Under these conditions, "any word of the church that is not in defense and definite support of the struggles of the poor can become a blow against them."

They stated that in Nicaragua "terror of the armed forces and the police has disappeared in most of the country. Human life is respected by the enormous majority of the Nicaraguan people. The bases for a more just economy are already in place and, in general, there is no hunger there. The majority of the Nicaraguans express themselves freely and spontaneously give their opinion of the present government. The Nicaraguan people also practice their religion freely." In terms of living conditions, they said that the situation in Nicaragua is "incomparably better" than the situation which prevails in neighboring countries like Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, "more consistent with the requirements of our Christian faith."

The signers warned that there is "a clear political decision by the U.S. Government to destroy the present Nicaraguan national project. It tries to destroy it physically, if possible, blockading it economically and attacking it militarily."

They added that part of the Catholic hierarchy, especially the archbishop of Managua, "converts its suspicions and fears into clearer and more definite accusations against the Sandinist regime which it calls totalitarian and anti-religious." This religious denunciation is valuable aid to the forces that are trying to recover the economic and political power they lost in 1979.

They noted that it is obvious that Nicaragua presents a different reality today than Cuba does.

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CSO: 3248/646

CUERNAVACA BISHOP SEES SERIOUS ERROR IN PAPAL STATEMENTS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 7 Mar 83 pp 1-A, 22-A, 29-A

[Article by Carlos A. Medina]

[Excerpt] Cuernavaca, Mor., 6 Mar--Bishop Sergio Mendez Arceo said in his Sunday sermon today: "The Catholic Church might pay dearly for the error that Pope John Paul II committed in Nicaragua by not condemning the United States for the aggressions it commits against the Sandinist government as the people asked him to. Therefore, there is the risk of repeating the historic error of Pope Pius VII and Pope Pius VIII who, by not supporting the people of Mexico in their fight for independence, caused the division between the Mexican people and their church."

He told this reporter: "I cannot understand what happened to the Pope. Perhaps due to a lack of advisers, the Pope did not want, could not or did not know how to respond to the clamor of the Nicaraguan people. It is very regrettable that this happened."

In his sermon as well as in the interview with this correspondent, Mendez Arceo conceded great importance to the Pontiff's visit to Nicaragua. "God save the Pope and the church if it is only led by the opinions of the ecclesiastical hierarchy in Nicaragua. Everyone must be heard, even those who are not Christians. After a calm, Christian reflection, a sensible position should be taken. It is necessary to listen to the people; it is the duty of every good Catholic."

In his sermon, he criticized the bishops of Costa Rica and Panama because they called it desecration of the Mass and lack of respect for the Pope when some 500,000 Nicaraguans interrupted a liturgical ceremony in Managua shouting: "We want peace."

I Respect Them But Do Not Agree

Mendez Arceo said: "I love my brother bishops in Costa Rica and Panama. I respect them but I do not agree with them. Their stand and their apologies to the Pope only add fuel to the fire. It is like trying to put out a fire with gasoline. The people did not insult the Mass or the Pope. The people only asked for peace and tranquillity. That is no crime or desecration. They asked for respect for their revolution, their government and their sovereignty."

The bishop commented: "At this time, the situation is serious; it is critical for the stability of the Nicaraguan revolution. This only benefits the administration of President Reagan. The Pope should have taken a stand at the side of the people. By not doing so, in spite of the fact that there were 17 mothers in the Plaza de la Revolucion who were crying for their children recently murdered on the border with Honduras by the Somozist counterrevolutionaries, the frustration and neglect turned into a popular clamor asking for condemnation of the United States. What a shame that he did not do it."

"The silence of the Pope caused sadness for the people of Nicaragua. I love the Pope, I love the Sandinist revolution, I love the people of Nicaragua. Because I love them, I ask you to pray for them in these serious and critical times."

Mendez Arceo recalled in his sermon that a group of Mexican Catholic theologians had sent a letter to Pope John Paul II. In it they indicated that the Vatican had to support the Nicaraguan revolution because, otherwise, the errors that Pope Pius VII and Pope Pius VIII committed in their time could be repeated. By not supporting the independence movement of the people of Mexico, they caused a confrontation between the Catholics and their church. He said: "This same error that was paid for so dearly must not be committed again."

Mendez Arceo criticized the Pope because, without considering the opinion of the people, he gave all his support to the Nicaraguan ecclesiastical hierarchy. He revealed: "The division between the church and the government of Nicaragua widened."

He said: "Although it is true that the Nicaraguan revolution has a marked Marxist profile, it is also true that it has the endorsement of the people. The church and the government have their own ideas on how to resolve the social problems but this cannot be a motive not to recognize it. Positions have been polarized in Nicaragua and a division between the church and government can be very dangerous for the stability of the government. Nicaragua needs to add to its friends at this time, not its enemies."

For Mendez Arceo, the papal visit to that Central American country "was a day of sadness and tension that only benefits the number-one enemy of the Nicaraguan revolution, the United States."

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SONORA BISHOP FAVORS PAN GUBERNATORIAL ASPIRANT

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 7 Mar 83 p 5

[Excerpt] Ciudad Obregon, Son., 6 Mar--The bishop of this city, Monsignor Luis Reynoso Cervantes, revealed that Adalberto Rosas Lopez, PAN [National Action Party] nominee for governor of Sonora, "has the sympathy of the church." The PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] delegate there, Pedro Luis Bartiloti, stated in Hermosillo that Rosas Lopez' */march of democracy/* [in italics] "is nothing new." He stressed that, in his party, "we have not placed any interest or importance in him" because it is only the political activity of a citizen "with whom we do not agree but we do not argue."

Interviewed by this newspaper, Adalberto Rosas Lopez said that he was willing to form alliances with all parties "except the official one." He admitted: "Yes, I was one of those in Chipinque but there were no discussions or anything there," he explained. "No, we went like conscientious businessmen to take classes in company profit."

Bishop Reynoso Cervantes insisted that the nominee for governor in the elections to be held within 2-1/2 years "has every right to use legitimate and legal means to defend what he believes." With respect to the "march of democracy" by the former mayor of Cajeme, he asked whom it hurts. He added: "Like any citizen, he has the right to defend his freedom."

The bishop added that restricting Rosas Lopez "would mean going against freedom and real democracy." He added that, in this case, "Mexico has to demonstrate with deeds and not words that it is a truly democratic country." Then he noted: "With this, everything is said."

He said that "the church has a definite role" in restructuring through the moral renovation of society. This consists in creating a correct conscience in the citizens, a conscience consistent with service to others, especially the needy, he emphasized.

The bishop added: "As to the hierarchy, it does not interfere in politics." Referring to those who criticize the church for its "alleged" interference in politics, he stated: "What happens is that they do not like the truth." "It only intervenes in the moral area, in the area of spiritual and moral values, and, therefore, in the area of pure politics, not partisan politics. That is what the hierarchy of bishops and priests do not interfere in."

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CSO: 3248/646

SEPULVEDA ON CENTRAL AMERICA, FALKLANDS ISSUES

PM241431 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 17 Mar 83 p 20

[Interview with Bernardo Sepulveda, Mexican secretary of foreign relations, by Miguel Angel Augilar on 16 March in Madrid]

[Text] Madrid--Bernardo Sepulveda gave a very positive assessment of the growing influence that the Latin American community has gained within the Nonaligned Movement, as shown by the results of the latest summit, whose final communique contains the proposals formulated in Managua. Next he said that his agenda in Madrid had not included talks about the economic dispute centered on the acknowledgement of the Mexican debt and the establishment of a timetable for repayment. He explained that these topics were broached during Finance Minister Jesus Silva Herzog's latest visit in a manner judged satisfactory to both sides. The secretary of state for trade is due to visit Mexico to conclude the final details.

"In my conversation with Felipe Gonzalez," Sepulveda said, "I conveyed to him a special message from President de la Madrid expressing Mexico's keenness--which I perceived was reciprocated by the Spanish side--to maintain very close political relations and a very clear desire for cooperation. Both governments recently completed their first 100 days in office. They are encountering similar phenomena. A difficult situation in the economic field. At the same time a very clear process to insure that the international dimension is not neglected is also apparent. They are countries which, in their capacity as medium-sized powers, have a position that can exert a very favorable influence on the development of international relations."

There are projects in the economic field that will be stimulated. The intensification of relations in this field is one of the most striking phenomena, in the Mexican minister's opinion. Joint investments have become very important. The same can be said of the trading field, where the increase is from hundreds of millions of dollars to thousands of millions.

The Mexican secretary of foreign relations said that he would emphasize the political blueprint most--the political will to come together with countries with convergences and similarities on a number of issues affecting international relations.

In connection with the celebrations for the fifth centenary of discovery, the Mexican minister mentioned the support for the designation of Seville as the location for the international exhibition, as against Chicago. He also said that a body has been set up to be responsible for organizing various events contributing to the commemoration of that event in close cooperation with the Spanish authorities.

As for the "Latin American community of nations," Secretary Sepulveda said the existence of such a community seems undeniable. In his opinion, several factors govern the greater or lesser activity of the community. What it is necessary to do is to insure its institutionalization so that short-term problems, which will always exist, do not paralyze it in the attainment of its objectives.

Starting in 1982, in connection with the Malvinas, a substantially greater cohesion has been very apparent among all Latin American countries. They joined in a common cause--the Malvinas--following which they continued with a homogeneous and solid stance which Sepulveda is sure will yield excellent results. "We all lamented that the extreme was reached of resorting to the use of force to resolve that dispute. All the Latin American countries have confirmed their stance of recognizing Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas. This reflects a matter of principle that has to do with the very roots of the conflict: The fact that the Argentines on the island were expelled by force in 1833. This means that Mexico and the other Latin American countries are unwilling to accept conquest as a method of acquiring territory. This principle is the basis of the Latin American position of reaffirming Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands. We realize the need to find a peaceful solution to the dispute."

In connection with the Malvinas, Sepulveda said that Latin America has realized that if it is a matter of choosing between a continental or an Atlantic stance, the United States prefers the latter. "In my opinion, only some governments felt surprised. The countries most experienced in the diplomatic field recognized this conduct as part of a traditional alliance that the United States maintains with Britain--the so-called 'special relationship.'"

[PM241433] "The Mexican stance regarding El Salvador has remained identical," Sepulveda said. "It pursues the pacification of the Central American region, which is in a very severe state of tension. The various initiatives taken by Mexico jointly with other countries have had a certain degree of success. For instance, one can see that whereas in 1981 the idea of dialogue was excluded from the Salvadoran question, now the term is being used by more governments and political leaders and by Washington itself, which recently introduced this word into its political vocabulary. The pope also used it during his visit. Though it is true that this dialogue is not yet taking place, there is an increasingly strong inclination on the part of the sides involved in the conflict to reach such an understanding by means of dialogue and not by means of a military solution. This constitutes a considerable advance, which must lead to a peace formula for El Salvador."

Contadora is another matter: that was the location of the 9-10 January meeting of Mexican, Venezuelan, Colombian and Panamanian foreign ministers as part of a broader endeavor affecting Central America. "There is one important element: the coming together of four countries that geographically belong to the Caribbean basin and which therefore are more anxious for a solution to Central America's problems. The stance adopted by the participants at Contadora has received considerable support from the other Latin American countries. This endeavor is regarded sympathetically. This is not only because of the intrinsic merits of the Contadora communique but because it has sufficient political substance [densidad] to enable it to legitimize action.

"It was also decided to initiate a process of rapprochement among the various sides. What I mean by this," Sepulveda explained, "is that negotiations to find a peace formula must be conducted by the method of political conversations with the sides directly involved in the conflict. And that is a process that takes time. It is necessary to try to identify the points of dispute and formulas for negotiations. Our demarches are intended to be of use in the settlement of these objectives."

Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez' influence, Sepulveda stressed, has been extraordinarily positive. "Prime Minister Gonzalez is particularly well informed about Central American affairs. In his capacity as head of the Socialist International he has had the opportunity to become thoroughly immersed in all the issues. I believe that Felipe Gonzalez' political influence and administrative skill will prove exceptionally useful in carrying out any diplomatic initiative too. If an initiative were to be formulated for settling the various conflicts in the area, I am sure that a request would be made for a political contribution from Felipe Gonzalez and the Spanish government. In my opinion a process is at present going on that does not yet make it possible to consolidate an initiative in which a necessary mechanism of pacification is sufficiently mature. I am certain that if such an initiative, previously negotiated with the sides involved in the conflict, were to materialize, Spain's contribution would be very welcome. I am sure that the Spanish government would also be sympathetic toward the conduct of these demarches.

"It seems unfair to me to require from Nicaragua an immediate possibility of building political institutions. The process will take some time, but in my opinion it is moving in the right direction. I have the impression," Sepulveda said, "that the Sandinista political plan of insuring pluralism in Nicaraguan political life will be maintained and that the prevalence of the mixed economy will be insured. As for U.S. interests," the Mexican minister said, "they would be better protected by means of a process guaranteeing the area political pluralism and democracy in whatever way the Central American peoples themselves may understand them than by means of interpretations alien to their own conditions."

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FUTURE OF ARUBA, ROLE OF BETICO CROES VIEWED

Situation in Aruba

Amsterdam DE TIJD in Dutch 11 Mar 83 pp 62-65

[Article by Susanne Piet: "Aruba: 'If Anything Changes Here, It Will Go Like Latin America'"; passages printed in italics enclosed in slantlines]

[Text] "A Ship Doesn't Rock Very Hard on Smooth Seas"

A conference at The Hague: how and when does Aruba gain its "status aparte" [separate status]? A historic week, it is said, with about a hundred Antilleans every day at the Round Table in the Rolzaal at The Hague.

Aruba, already an island apart, where more oil, money, and drugs pass through than the eye can discern. A report from Susanne Piet--who, heard herself called a "coloniast" there for the first time--and a talk with MEP [People's Electoral Movement] leader Betico Croes. "I wield the slogan, 'Vox populi, vox die.'"

The entire island can be seen from atop the haystack not far from the landing field, longer than it is wide, but small (193 square meters), with a cacti as far as the eye can see. In the ocean, oil tankers lie as motionless as crocodiles waiting on their prey. At San Nicholas the round cargo containers of the refinery, further north the water plant, above Oranjestad the /free trade zone/, the duty paradise, and further on the hotels.

In Oranjestad a calm sense of order prevails: banks, hamburger joints and many jewelers. It is evidently easier, naturally with an adequate financial return service, to buy a Rollex watch than to buy fresh fish. The mailboxes for the houses, exquisitely built in little rows and painted in pastels, are in the shape of a little house. In the gardens, where here and there men in interlock sweaters engage in a game of dominoes, royal poincianas and multicolored bougainvilleas wave in the trade wind.

Since the majority party MEP gave new life to the then fifteen-year-old idea of independence, politics has not become simpler. All parties are now in favor of a form of independence, but each with a somewhat different nuance. The alternative of /Status Aparte/, independence within the kingdom, is one of these. The Ruba, the PPA [Aruban Patriotic Party] and to a somewhat lesser extent the AVP [Aruban People's Party] are for it. The MEP leans towards an associative agreement: Aruba out of the kingdom, with retention of international legal connections with the Netherlands. A third variant is first decentralization and later independence. No politician still seems to want one-sided independence, certainly not after the developments in the Falklands.

Something about those desires is noted in the sole leftist opposition newspaper, /SKOL Y KOMMUNIDAD/, by the teachers' union, still clearly the cradle of political culture. /Jan Hendrik Albert Eman/ of the AVP [Aruban People's Party] wants further defense guarantees with the Netherlands, even after independence. Croes hopes for support from "the region" where the Netherlands fails to give it.

Otherwise, the attitude of most ordinary Arubans is either "Don't ask me, I don't get into politics," or "We want to be rid of domination by Curacao. Do we here have to work so hard, only to let the money flow there?"

The amount of truth in this last casual assertion can be verified at the /Bank of the Netherlands Antilles/. From the data given by Mr /Driessen/, it is very obvious that for the last 6 years Aruba has been bringing in the foreign exchange that has then streamed back out via the other islands. But just like the other islands, Aruba is dependent on foreign capital through oil, tourism and wages.

"Aruba, the front yard of Venezuela and the backyard of the United States," DE AMIGOE characterizes. Venezuela lies closer to the Antilles than does Argentina to the Falklands, school children learn. Whoever peers across the sea from atop the snow white beach of the Divi-Divi Hotel can see the continent itself lying about 50 km away. Under that sea lies the so-called Continental Plateau, through which Aruba could be regarded as geographically Venezulean, while there are also historical reasons for it. Fortunately, Venezuela does not officially lay claim here, but uncertainty prevails concerning what will happen here if the island stands alone.

Some influence is already noticeable. Curacao was able to foil the military parade that Venezuela wanted to hold in commemoration of the freedom fighter /Brion/, but other kinds of infiltration are harder to stop. Such a nice girl, for example, who offers courses in Spanish, cooking, guitar, mandolin and cuatro at the brand new /Centro Cultural Bolivia Ibeo/ under the authority of a /Plan Operativo/ of the Venezuelan Ministry of Culture that has as its aim the spread of the language, culture and history of Venezuela. On the cover of the exercise book in Spanish, the entire text of the Venezuelan national anthem is printed along with the motto /Amistad y cooperacion/.

How can one resist the Dallas-type serials of Novelas which the Venezuelan TV broadcasts with Aruban commercials in between.

Venezuela also has a finger in Aruban business life. For example, the Concorde Hotel is mostly in Venezuelan hands and the crude oil, which is processed by the American Lago refinery (profits last year of 113 million) comes from Venezuela.

Thirty percent of the tourists are Venezuelan. Not that they are popular in this role, the Venezuelans; they are noisy and brash, it is said, and they drink a lot. They have stolen radios from hotel rooms and during a baggage check at the airfield at least 60 sheets from the Holiday Inn were recovered.

They are often shopping tourists; 40 pairs of socks for oneself and 2 pairs for customs. Neither is it surprising to see a Venezuelan coming into the island's free trade zone with \$2 million. During the elections a few months ago, the number of Venezuelan visitors reached a record, because boycott measures threatened in the leading OPEC countries; every Venezuelan who left the country would have to pay about 200 guilders, and a ban on the import of textiles was imposed.

Then there is the gambling in Aruba, the /catoochi/. Lottery ticket sellers thought up an ingenious system of earning money. They sell tickets, for which the numbers are chosen by the buyers themselves. The winning number combinations correspond to the official results in Venezuela, broadcast by radio. The buyers as well have their systems and they have, moreover, thought up exciting /clues/. Thus they run like madmen to auto accidents in order to make a note of the last two digits on the license plates of the wrecked cars. During weeks with few disasters, the junkyard produces results as well. The illegal /catoochi/ has so taken root here, according to the gossip, that the secretary of Dutch judge /Kersemaker/ came across lottery tickets at her employer's office.

"If we weren't here, they would long since be speaking Spanish" is the explicit opinion of navy lieutenant first class /Peter Steenmeijer/ when I want to put to the test with a visit the credibility of the Dutch defense of the island, which has, for example, been brought into question by /SKOL Y KOMMUNIDAD/ and /VRIJ NEDERLAND/. Sardonicly, I choose for this visit a day on which more than half the 300 sailors were swallowed up, with equipment and everything, by big Hercules planes to take part in a US maneuver, /The Ocean Venture 82/.

In moving solitude a soldier thus blows reveille at the ritual hoisting of the flag of the fatherland. The dentist sits twiddling his thumbs a little, which is exceptional, since he generally can hope to work on the neglected teeth of the small group of Arubans detailed to the navy.

One of the two available pipers practices the Wilhelmus in the distance, while garlic smoke comes curling out of the kitchens; it is for the rijst-tafel, traditional on Wednesday. In the laundry barracks, six black women are fighting desperately against the sometimes brown Aruban tap water, state enemy number one of the white sailor outfits. The commander's sports car is alone on show in the garage, ignominiously dented because, at least according to the version telegraphed to the Netherlands, the driver had to swerve to avoid a cat.

The commander apologizes for the scant occupation of the camp and for the inferior alloy of the material. The fact that the Netherlands, after years of casting off, is now building up, indicates a somewhat changed perception of independence, according to him. The Falklands-Antilles association also figures in the discussions at the naval level. "We must show our fact to the big boys on the other side, nothing more," it is said.

The navy cannot be a true defensive force; even the Lago security force that sometimes practices on the navy firing range is stronger. Even on the island itself the navy has a mostly symbolic function, in which /low profile/ public relations is the line of policy. "We never meet in committee, but if something must be organized here, it is often to arrange 41,700 bells. We kind of keep an eye on things. Like whether the cars have been rented for the Queen's visit."

If at the last minute it appears that cars have been thought of, but not drivers, the navy stands ready. A half hour before the visit a flagpole, but no Dutch flag? No need, the navy to the rescue.

Leaving the camp, where you could literally fire a cannon without hitting anyone, I read the words on the camp coat of arms: /Know my strength/.

"They don't want to work," says a junk dealer in old metal, who has set up his business in Aruba so that, because of the employment picture, mark it well, he has had to pay no tax for 11 years. He reveals that he has mostly Colombians working for him who (roguish wink) every 3 months are sent on vacation.

The Dutch owner of a store and restaurant complains that Aruban workers are slow. Even when the store is full they don't hurry. And she has said a hundred times to no avail that the ham must be sliced "thin." I hear warnings everywhere too: "Arubans have long toes." "They look right at you, but you don't sink in with them," a Netherlander who has "really tried it" tells me.

There are also images the other way around. The literal translation of /Makamba/ is Netherlander, but whoever hears the title applied to himself need not feel flattered. He is the thrifty, orderly moneymaker. "I stared my eyes out in the Netherlands when I discovered Dutch street sweepers. I was raised with the image that Netherlanders had professions which you had to shy away from doing."

An Aruban is surprised that Netherlands unashamedly complain in stores about the prices of, for example, children's shoes, and that they almost cannot pay for them. An Aruban is too proud for that. He would rather put himself in debt so that he can paint up his house in honor of his child's first communion than admit to his worries over money. The Dutch judge in Aruba is, by his own disclosure, confronted every Wednesday with questions of monetary claims in 40 cases out of 60. His other dealings: violence, rape and murder.

The Dutch legal code is only one Dutch system to which Aruba is committed. Medical care, the bureaucracy and the school system are other examples. A Chilean who is occupied in a UN connection with /social planning/ is maddened by the "havos [higher advanced general education school] and mavos [middle advanced general education school], its [lower technical school], mts [middle technical school], etc." "Much too complicated for an island like that," he thinks. A leftist Aruban educator: "The system lags behind in actual education too. While Aruba's economic emphasis is in the service sector, the school system is still oriented towards technology. So a whole lot of waiters here even have its training." A thorn in his side also is the fact that school children receive their instruction in Dutch, while /Papiamentu/ is the standard language everywhere. "You can blame the fact that 75 percent repeat a grade at least once on that," he thinks.

Business ties with the Netherlands are innumerable. The jeweler /Kan/, the /ABN/ [General BANK of the Netherlands], insurance companies such as /Ennia/ and /Netherlands of 1845/, /Nedlloyd Aruba/, /KLM/, /Harbor Works/, and the electric company /Elmar/, supported by /Ogem/, are on the list of the Chamber of Commerce. of the 30,000 /offshore/ businesses in the Antilles, 2,000 are in Aruba.

Almost all Dutch labor and dredging companies conduct advantageous transactions abroad by means of offices on paper. Leftist ARubans who have often continued their studies in the Netherlands cite examples of the "Dutch grocer's mentality." What was the stipulation for the granting of a 100,000 guilder subsidy for the lighting of a stadium? That /Philips/ lights be purchased for it. Who supplies the lamp posts at the cargo harbor, still under construction, the benefits of which serve the non-Aruban business sphere? The Dutch /Unicon/.

Why is the new, Dutch-built library becoming so large? Elmar is in luck, because the air conditioning will use excessive electricity. And the fact that KLM still has the exclusive flights to Aruba hurts not only ALM [Antillean Air] but tourist possibilities from Europe as well.

"You colonialists have sat here and greased your own pockets. You don't care anything about Aruba. You don't even know where it's located, while we had to learn about the peats in Groningen." I hear this complaint repeatedly from the leftist side.

The left comes up right away in Aruba. The paper SKOL Y KOMMUNIDAD, which asks in an aside joke whether planner /Nel Oduber/ as /Man of the Year/ also got the /Bride of the Year/, is immediately slapped with a lawsuit. The six Arubans who choose Cuba as their holiday destination have since been labeled communists.

There are somewhat careful emancipatory initiatives, such as a students' legal advice bureau, a radio call-in program /Ban Combersa/ (Let's Talk) or a women's day, but a socialist revolution, as recommended in a study by /Marga van Dieten/ and /Leo Maduro/ about Antillean dependence, is out of the question. Most educated Arubans have done well in the middle class, with their own house when they marry, a second one after the first child, their own share of plans for vacations, apartments and plane trips, and plans to have their children study later in the United States.

The influence of the United States is unmistakable, apart from the growing number of hamburger joints. More than half of the tourists are American. Yearly revenues: 213 million. The American Lago refinery that, more as a gesture than out of necessity, offers work to 800 Arubans, promises new investments until 1985.

The Latin American heart of Aruba ticks in another way. "Island secrets," as the navy commander calls them, are kept in the free trade zone. Aruba is the fourth largest coffee exporter in the world, but the first coffee bean has yet to be picked there. When the crew, a dog and the papers were rescued from a sunken ship, the papers already appeared to have on them the stamps of the country of arrival. Ex-minister /Max Croes/ supposedly bribed customs with a trunk full of one million guilders. Whisky is bought for 1 dollar and sold for 18, someone boasts. A boat loaded with alcohol leaves Aruba every month for Brazil. A businessman departed with 4,000 color television sets for Venezuela, where no sets may be imported.

The navy commander says, "You see small fishing boats everywhere here, but just try to get fish. It's worth gold here, and the ocean is full of it. The navy receives reports of helicopters at Dos Playa. There is no coast guard. Sport aircraft? We're overwhelmed with them."

On the landing field 20 or so aircraft stand chained up. The police brought in cocaine from forced landings originating in Guajira, Colombia, 150 km further on. The white powder is offered in hotel rest rooms. Marijuana is easy to get. "The Marijuana trade from Colombia has spoiled the trade with Aruba, but now it is more closely watched. Six hundred Arubans are directly involved with coffee packing," Mr Driessen of the bank tells us. According to the judge, the trafficking and use of drugs are growing phenomena. Last year a policeman apparently sold the confiscated supply in the weapons depot.

"Aruba is of the Indians, they are influenced by Europe and America. Self-identity has faded a little. But in our words and actions the Aruban people show themselves. They are gentle with a business-like tinge," Betico Croes characterizes.

"A ship doesn't rock very hard on smooth seas," maritime law expert /Mr Th. Monzon/ characterizes. "If everyone has a fat belly, not much happens." And the youth then? Won't they revolt against the middle-class atmosphere? "Young people can also be fat. But don't forget," he warns, "if anything changes here, it will go like Latin America. Something lies under those smooth seas."

Interview of Croes

Amsterdam DE TIJD in Dutch 11 Mar 83 pp 64-65

[Report on interview with Betico Croes, leader of MEP [People's Electoral Movement], by Susanne Piet: "'The Circumstances Have Stamped Me As a Revolutionary'"; place of interview: Croes's home; date not given]

[Text] The mention of Betico Croes's name evokes in many inhabitants of Aruba a sort of involuntary admiration. He stands head and shoulders above the rest, one must admit. But then comes gossip about concubines, fights, weapons possession and the pursuit of power. Watch out, an Aruban colleague warns. As sure as you're sitting there, he'll get you in the plam of his hand. He knows your family or your family's family, and he invites you out for lunch. You think, meanwhile, that he is telling a lot, but when you take a look at your material later alone, he appears to have said nothing.

An appointment is difficult to make, but even more complicated is its fulfillment. After countless postponements of dates and places, I finally speak with him at his house, while dark ladies carry around coffee not intended for me. Over the bar hangs a welcome greeting in Papiamentu, as well as photos of his children and of his acting as leader of the island Remy Zaandam. Under the glass sheet of a table in his study is a photo of /Charles/ and /Di/. Croes's smile is as professionally free and easy as his morning condition allows. His bare feet are in off-white loafers. The curtains stay closed.

Interrupted a number of times by the telephone, he tells how he, as a socially concerned educator, active in youth and church choir work, was at a given moment in 1977 approached by the AVP [Aruban People's Party]. In contrast with many other young people who do not dare to because of the prevalent village politics, the low standards and personal attacks, he said yes when he learned of the objectives of the party and when his family had approved the initiative. "I was the first political leader who had no business connections. Other parties were sitting in a financial bed of roses. During the election campaign as many gifts as possible were presented. Our attitude was one of personal approach to the people. We

went everywhere, to every out-of-the-way corner. We grabbed the people with the slogan about our own future. In debate clubs with colleagues, we always talked about the future of Aruba."

/Has your concept of independence undergone a transformation between 1977 and now?/

"A change has indeed taken place. Four events are the cause of this: the Queen's abdication, the experiences within the royal working group, the events in Surinam and the Falkland Islands war. Now we have an example of how an island can be the meeting place for conflicts between Latin America and a European power.

"I am still of the opinion that we must realize independence with cooperation between Aruba and the islands on the basis of international law, and with the Netherlands within the Commonwealth. Guarantees must come from the Netherlands, the United States and Venezuela. It is necessary that a consortium be set up. I am realistic; our future cannot be seen separately from these powers. I have asked Mexico and Venezuela for not only economic but also military support within the framework of a /mini-Marshall Plan/ against Colombian infiltration in the Caribbean."

With an apologetic smile: "When I speak about independence, I am talking about Aruba, but in the back of my mind I also see the necessity of solid and lasting cooperation among the islands of the Netherlands Antilles. I believe that the population of Aruba has other thoughts than I do about independence. They want to stay away from Curacao. We have tried to cater to these wishes with the introduction of the concept /Status Aparte/. When the Netherlands dealt with it negatively, I said in August 1972 in Surinam that Aruba should opt for independence. Then I was laughed at. The developments in this area were not foreseen. Comparable islands such as Granada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, etc. have all become independent.

"Aruba has, after all, always experienced steady economic development with oil. Many people thought differently about this after the energy crisis of 1974, too. After 1975-76, the economy began to play an important role in the considerations. I see that the decolonization process must go on its way, /but not separately from the Netherlands/. We have never opted for an isolated independence. We are certainly threatened with that. The desire to get loose from Curacao has to do with the unequal distribution of parliamentary seats, 12 to 8. The political parties before us have always remained within the borders; they had no international support. When we saw that we drew the attention of the United Nations to our problem, and we became affiliated with the Socialist International, we find that in spite of the European streak in us, thanks to a 300-year connection with the kingdom, we are indeed a Latin American country."

Rapids

/How do you picture the future in concrete terms?/

"After the Round Table conference, a decentralization process begins. We busy ourselves with the assumption of means of power, such as the monetary unit, social affairs, the police and so on, within a period of one and a half, 2 years. Then comes status aparte or the status of associate state. The Netherlands has said so often that it does not want to cooperate with status aparte. As an associate state, we receive guarantees from the Netherlands and we hold a Dutch passport, so that the statute need not be changed. That lasts 4 or 5 years. If in that period the other islands of the Antilles do not desire independence, then we have to deal with the kingdom. They would then have a state connection with the Netherlands and cooperative connection with Aruba.

"I believe that we have gotten into the rapids through the attitude of the Netherlands itself. Most of all, Turning Point 72 compelled us. I have always slowed up the pace in contrast to the other islands. It is through the actions of the MEP that the independence question has gotten going."

Asked about the strong aspects of his politics, he chooses the integration of the Aruban population and consciousness-raising. He defends himself:

"I have never been a member of the leadership board, I've always had a parliamentary function. I've never been a minister so that I can keep my hands free politically."

/And your own mistakes?/

Humble glance: "During the period after 1977, we had to make ourselves very conspicuous. I am quiet by nature, not a revolutionary. But the circumstances precipitated the view at a certain moment that I was a revolutionary, even in my behavior. Through this I continually got into incidents with the authorities, ministers, parliament. I would certainly say that through all this, the end was almost attained, but that does not justify the means. I did indeed come to blows with Aruban members of parliament."

Don't Burn Down

He laughs: "You should have seen it here 10 years ago, demonstrations, etc. Criticism from the business community still cropped up. But in contrast to what is normally the case, our independence aspirations have not been detrimental to economic development; quite the contrary. I have always said: We do it pacifically, bring about no damage to your own land, don't burn down your own stuff."

/They say you have a Venezuelan passport./

"My ancestry is Dutch on my father's side and Venezuelan on my mother's side. But if I had had a Venezuelan passport, they would have torn me apart. They say that much. They have also said that I have a big house in Venezuela." He smiles and is silent.

/It is also said that you always contradict yourself./

"I have a good memory, but I know how to change my tack. I wield the slogan /Vox populi, vox die/, I am an instrument of the people. In a certain sense they say that I am a populist who allows himself to be dragged along. I do not want to say that I am a leader of people; I find that the people must give information but that they themselves must decide. That is why I am on the television too. Ninety percent of the broadcasts are attended to by me. It's a rough life."

12271

CSO: 3214/24

INDEPENDENCE SET FOR 19 SEPTEMBER; LABOUR PARTY BALKS

Assembly Debate

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 19 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] SUBJECT to the completion of the customary constitutional formalities in the time available, the State of St. Christopher and Nevis will become the world's newest INDEPENDENT NATION on Monday 19th September, 1983. This long-awaited announcement was first broadcast on Wednesday by the Prime Minister-designate the Honourable Dr. Simmonds, in a most fitting setting, namely, in the stately Chamber of the House of Assembly, before a "live" radio audience, at the conclusion of a three-day Debate finalising the Draft INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION. Premier Simmonds repeated and elaborated upon his release on National Television and Radio later the same evening (See Back Page).

The Debate itself was a revealing and gripping encounter between the members of the Government and the members of the Opposition, as they wound up the long saga of the more than ten (10) year quest for the coming of age of St. Kitts and Nevis. Our sister islands have been described as the Alpha and the Omega of Associated Statehood, the first to celebrate that half-independent status and the last to come out of it. THE DEMOCRAT applauds the Coalition Government out of the People's Action Movement (PAM) and the Nevis Reformation Party (NRP) for their team-work, unity of purpose, and statesmanship in maintaining a flexible and open-minded approach under the spotlight of searching public scrutiny.

The Report of last December's Constitutional Conference in London has been published, and it contains not only the outline of the Government's proposals for INDEPENDENCE but also the Opposition's principal objections to those proposals. The Report has been duly presented to the House of Commons in London and has come out of this presentation with flying colours. The start of the Debate was signalled by the introducing by Premier Simmonds of a motion for a resolution of the House of Assembly to formally signify its request and consent to the grant of INDEPENDENCE and the bringing into force of the Draft Constitution upon the attainment of INDEPENDENCE.

Opposition Leader Lee Moore studiously avoided highlighting the constitutional breakthrough represented by the agreed position between PAM and NRP. He confined himself instead to pinpointing in his grand style a number of supposed

flaws in the Draft Constitution, which the Government members duly undertook to consider, and with which in large measure they eventually concurred. Many of the Opposition Leader's points were couched in authoritative tones but not all of them were sound or sincere. (See Editorial on Page 2). In the end, Premier Simmonds proved that he had the measure of Lee Moore, and a comprehensive grasp of his subject, when he delivered one of his most spirited and dynamic rebuttals as he examined each of Moore's suggested amendments and riveted home the Government's readiness to entertain and adopt any sensible suggestions which could be accommodated within the agreed position achieved by PAM and NRP.

Simmonds Radio-TV Address

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 19 Mar 83 p 12

[Text] Fellow Citizens, Good Evening:"

I take this opportunity to announce that the British Government has agreed with the Government of this State, that subject to the satisfactory conclusion of the customary Constitutional processes in the time available, St. Christopher and Nevis should attain INDEPENDENCE on MONDAY 19th SEPTEMBER, 1983.

I know that some of you were anxious to know about the date of Independence and as I explained on a previous occasion that I would allay that anxiety as soon as the information became available, I am delighted that the information became available during the closing stages of the debate, which was just concluded in the House of Assembly.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION AND INVOLVEMENT

This was the debate on the Resolution of the Legislature of the country to signify its request for Her Majesty to grant Independence and make the necessary order in Council, to bring into force, the Draft Independence Constitution which was fully discussed and debated in the House of Assembly today. This Draft Constitution is the product of an extended period of public discussion and involvement. And very briefly, I'll like to take you back to the 1st of January 1982, when we announced that the Government will begin the necessary processes leading towards Independence. On the 26th July, 1982, the Government published for the study of the Public, and laid in the House of Assembly, a document known as a "WHITE PAPER", which sets out the Government's Proposals for an Independence Constitution for the State.

Between the 26th July and 1st October 1982 there was full and widespread public discussion throughout the length and breadth of St. Kitts/Nevis and as a result of this discussion, and dialogue, certain changes and adjustments were made so as to take note of the legitimate concerns of the people of our State.

House of Assembly Approval

On 5th October last year, there was a debate in the House of Assembly which culminated in the House giving its approval to the drafting of an Independence Constitution based upon the proposals in the "WHITE PAPER" and our previous Constitution. Following this debate, the Honourable Minister for State for

Commonwealth Affairs the Honourable Cranley Onslow visited St. Kitts and Nevis on the 20th and 21st of October and saw at first hand, a general acclaim for Independence by all parties. In the period between December 7th and 16th 1982, there was a Constitutional Conference in London at which all three political opinions in the State were represented.

THE LAST 3 DAYS

A Draft Constitution was then prepared and that Draft Constitution was a serious debate in our own House of Assembly over the last three days.

I must express appreciation to every single member of the House of Assembly for the manner in which this debate was conducted. The Government once again demonstrated its willingness to enter into dialogue, to entertain suggestions and recommendations, and in this atmosphere, the Government accepted the majority of the proposals for amendments of the Draft Constitution, which were made by the Honourable Members on the side of the Opposition. So that, we in this country, can feel comfortable and at ease, that we have a document in which there had been input from every shade of political opinion in the State.

LEARNING FROM PAST MISTAKES

It is not the Constitution which will make the people of this country. It is the people of this country who must make the Constitution meaningful and I believe that if we exercise the virtues of tolerance and understanding through brotherhood, we will have started on the right road towards achieving that full Independence, that full internal satisfaction, which we are all seeking as a people.

And so, it is opportune for me to take this opportunity to say to every citizen of this country: Let us learn from the mistakes of the past - Let us cast divisiveness aside - Let us take what is good, what is progressive, what is meaningful, and use it for the development of the country. And let us learn from our mistakes so that we do not repeat them.

NEW CHAPTER IN OUR HISTORY

Fellow citizens, Independence is the inalienable right of every human being, but it brings with it, a tremendous responsibility to every human being. And so it is, fellow citizens, that on the 19th of February 1980 a new chapter in the history of this country began. A chapter that will unfold and open a new dimension - A dimension which will be unfolded on MONDAY 19th SEPTEMBER, 1983.

Let us move forward together as one people. In the words of our Preamble - "UNITY FOR PURPOSE". And let us ask God's richest blessings on us as a people.

Fellow citizens, God bless you all, and Good Evening.

Labour Party Objections

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 18 Mar 83 p 3

[Text]

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts,
Thursday (CANA) —
Opposition St. Kitts Labour
Party Leader, Lee Moore, has
condemned the draft in-
dependence Constitution for

the twin island British associate state as "ill-conceived, unworkable and an unfair document."

And, he warned during debate on the document in the House of Assembly here, that it could lead to strife between the people of St. Kitts and the people of the sister island, Nevis.

The House was debating the draft Constitution under which the state will attain independence in September after 10 years of associated statehood. The state will become known as the Federation of St. Christopher and Nevis.

Mr. Moore, a former Premier, proposed an amendment to the Government-sponsored resolution introducing the draft and suggested several proposals for changes in the document.

Among other things, he proposed that:

—The inequality between St. Kitts and Nevis built into the

draft should be removed. Nevis should have its own Assembly, Government, Premier and other institutions of government and should be able to control its own money and should be fully in charge of its affairs without interference from St. Kitts. In addition, just as the draft includes a separate chapter recording the rights of the island of Nevis, there should also be a chapter included, recording the rights of the people of St. Kitts.

—The draft Constitution should include a fundamental right guaranteeing security of employment to all workers, that is, security against dismissal without cause; and

—That the office of Director of Public Prosecutions should not be subjected to political direction in the matter of criminal prosecutions as is proposed in the draft, but should be professionally independent, as it is now.

CSO: 3298/497

GOVERNMENT FORCES WORKERS TO STRUGGLE FOR THEIR RIGHTS

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 2 Mar 83 pp 3, 4

[Article by Negro]

[Excerpts]

Workers all over St. Kitts are currently engaged in a struggle that must surely be reminiscent of the 1930s and 1940s. Workers are again being made to fight against truly weighty odds to assert their right to a decent wage in return for their labour, and the right to have bargaining agreements respected.

I could never have believed it if I was not on the spot to actually see it happening for myself.

Workers in St. Kitts in the sugar industry are being made to work for less money in 1983 than they worked for in 1982.

Workers at the Brassiere Factory (Wellington Ltd.) have a signed agreement with their employers that guaranteed them a 10% increase in their wages as at 5th February, 1983. The workers are unionised. That date passed by and the workers noted that the agreement was in fact not respected by the Company.

The workers determined that such agreements deserved to be respected. After all, the days of slavery were long past. Workers now have rights they did not have then. And we are not supposed to be living in Johannesburg, South Africa, but in Basseterre, St. Kitts.

It appears that the company had since recognised its breach of the agreement. Please recognise here that I put it that way to make it sound good. Because the truth is that the breach of the agreement came about because, it is suggested, the company felt that as the government had ill-treated the sugar workers so badly by denying them the goat-water, then they too could get into the act by also denying their workers even "pipe-water".

I am suggesting that workers in St. Kitts are being made to put up with all this nonsense because the employers are confident that they have a convenient government in office. This foolishness could never happen under a Bradshaw government, a Southwell government or a Lee Moore government. Never, never under any Labour government.

Unfortunately for the workers, it is happening under the more convenient Kennedy Simmonds government. I believe that all workers everywhere in this country will remember this right down to the polling booths in 1985 or whenever.

It is clear, based on the utterances of Simmonds himself and based on the slant the government's mouthpiece (the Democrat) has taken, that the government has totally misread the mood of the workers in this country.

They have never shown any appreciation for the fact that in a democracy an elected government is the servant of the people.

So since their ascension to office in 1980, the peoples wishes have consistently been given the cold shoulder.

Just last year the people expressed in no uncertain terms their distaste for Simmonds' independence white paper. No accommodation has since been shown for the peoples' wishes that there should be general elections before independence.

Maybe these politicians in office believe they have something to gain by going against the peoples' best interests. Their

short-sighted approach to all our problems limits their vision to going against anything their political opponents support. Even getting money-starved sugar workers out to cut cane is seen as a major victory for the government by these cockeyed gentlemen in office.

You think when workers get their chance to use the big stick, as surely it must come, that those workers will side with those who feel they should work for less? You think because a lot of our citizens are seemingly carrying on their business and their duties so peacefully that they really like it so? They got to be joking. Their appreciation of history must be nil.

Our people like peace and stability in a country. They like to see a smooth relationship between all categories of workers and employers. But they have a great abhorrence for employers taking advantage of poor workers and treating them like dirt.

It is in the interests of workers everywhere to give their full support to those sugar workers who are desperately fighting for their rights. It is in the interests of all working class people to give their undiluted support to those valiant Brassiere Factory workers who are refusing to succumb to an employer bent on crushing the workers' right to be represented by the union of their choice, and who are fighting the indecency of those who would disrespect signed agreements.

I honestly believe that those or who have lived here for a long time would be able to agree with this fact I now state. When Labour was in power and there were industrial problems, things were always resolved to the workers' benefit. Since we have this new-found-joy government in office, massa day is returning with a vengeance. Check it out and see.

CSO: 3298/497

BRYANT CASTIGATES GOVERNMENT FOR ILLEGAL BANKING ACTIVITIES

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 5 Mar 83 p 11

[Article by Fitzroy Bryant]

[Excerpts] On Tuesday this week (1 March) the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal brought by the Attorney-General against the Judgment of Mr. Justice Eric Bishop delivered last year May in what has come to be called THE NATIONAL BANK CASE.

I want to use the opportunity of today's instalment to give a public warning to a number of persons and institutions in St. Kitts against their continued interference in the management and affairs of St. Kitts Nevis Anguilla National Bank Ltd. and its subsidiary companies.

Attempted Take-Over Void, of No Effect

The High Court and the Court of Appeal have both ruled that the attempted take-over of the National Bank Group of Companies by the Simmonds government last year March was unconstitutional, void and of no effect.

The High Court and the Court of Appeal have both ruled that each and everything done, past, present and future, under the provisions of the National Bank Ltd. (Special Provisions) Act 1982 was, is and shall be null, void and of no effect.

National Bank Ltd. is a public company registered under the laws of our State.

National Bank Ltd. was not and is not owned by the Simmonds government or any other government. It was and is owned by 623 shareholders of which the government was/is one shareholder, albeit the shareholder owning the majority of the shares. But, I repeat, National Bank was not and is not owned by the government.

In March 1982 National Bank was not a barshop or some party political toy. It was the major financial institution in the State with assets of nearly \$100 million.

Since March 1982 Premier Simmonds and his associates in the government have been unlawfully playing the fool with National Bank. All kinds of people have

been strutting in and out of National Bank; dismissing, transferring, and promoting employees; lending out the Bank's money; interfering with the Bank's deposits and depositors; and generally intermeddling in the business of the Bank.

Fraud on the Minority

Unlawful interference in the management and affairs of a company, sometimes called "intermeddling" in the business of the company, is included in the list of illegal conduct called fraud on the minority.

I am therefore giving a public warning to Simeon Daniel, the Minister of Finance, not to intermeddle in the management and affairs of National Bank Ltd.

The same public warning goes out to William Liburd, Robert Manning, John Reynolds, Kenneth Kelly, Fitzroy Jones, Wendell Huggins and the other persons purporting to function as the Board of Directors of National Bank Ltd. and its subsidiary companies since March 1982.

The same public warning is given to those persons who, on the instructions and authority of an illegal Board of Directors, have intermeddled in the management of National Bank, National Bank Trust Company, and National Caribbean Insurance Company.

The same public warning is given to those institutions and companies which have been intermeddling with national Bank's moneys.

Ministers Not Exposing Themselves Personally

You see, to put it bluntly, Simmonds, Powell, Caines and the others in the government are not exposing themselves to any personal or individual risks. If a shareholder wants to take the government to Court, not one cent in damages or costs can come out of the personal funds of Simmonds, Powerll, Caines, etc.

The Treasury, the taxpayers, will have to pay that.

But the minority shareholders, indeed, even one minority shareholder, can sue Simeon Daniel personally, or William Liburd personally, or Robert Manning personally. Any one of them. Personally. For intermeddling in the management and affairs of National Bank.

In such a case, the personal assets of Simeon Daniel or William Liburd or Robert Manning or John Reynolds or Kenneth Kelly or Fitzroy Jones or Wendell Huggins would be at risk. Or any of the new management.

Ask any lawyer. I mean any good lawyer, of course.

Where things start, it not there they end.

CS0: 3298/497

BOUTERSE REJECTS RADICAL PATH TO REVOLUTION

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 25 Mar 83 No 12 pp 50-55

[Interview with Comdr Desi Bouterse by Raul Cordoves, at the Presidential Palace in Paramaribo on the third anniversary of independence]

[Text] It was in 1950 that Suriname began its decolonization process, first with partial autonomy and later with internal autonomy until finally, in 1975, the republic became totally independent, after 3 centuries of Dutch colonialism. The people thought that, with political independence, their aspirations would be achieved; but that was not the case.

There emerged a new elite, which submerged the country in chaos: lack of unity, a parliamentary democracy imposed by the Netherlands, 35 percent unemployment, a mass exodus, politico-economic power in the hands of the privileged, stagnation of development, unbridled corruption, an acute housing shortage and an enormous flight of capital....

All of this was ended on 25 February 1980, when a group of patriotic members of the military seized power, and determined the revolutionary line of social development. As might have been expected, the struggle of interests erupted. The elite wanted to retrieve their privileges and, for this purpose, they were backed by international capitalist associations and by officials at the Embassies of the Netherlands and the United States in Paramaribo.

Following the failure of several coup attempts, in mid-March 1982 there was another fiasco involving the seizure of power. This one was of an obvious militarist nature; it was headed by leaders of old political parties and supported by some former members of the military who had been dismissed, and who were joined by several disgruntled officers of the present Army.

The conspiracy had alternatives: To eliminate the members of the National Military Council en masse, in a massacre scheduled to take place at a church on 7 March; and, if this was not accomplished, another armed action had been planned during the Phagwa ceremony at the Presidential Palace, 3 days later. Or, in the default thereof, there would be a mass poisoning that same night at the residence of one of the ringleaders of the plot, who had invited the military leadership to celebrate the festivities.

Upon the failure of those efforts, there appeared total military action, aimed at seizing the military and civilian command posts and the state news media, including the seizure of the main headquarters as well. This was followed by a campaign of lies and intrigue which, among many other things, claimed that the military leadership had been eliminated, that Suriname was "free" and that many political and religious leaders were on the side of the newly established "National Liberation Council."

But the people did not support that counterrevolutionary activity, and mobilized in massive numbers on behalf of the government. The rash attempt was defeated in 48 hours. In view of this, the coup plotters concluded that they could succeed in another conspiracy only if they put the people in opposition to the revolutionary process and its leaders. They immediately became linked with the leadership of one of the country's major trade unions, Moederbond, whose head had ties with the CIA, but the majority of whose members had no such affiliation. Another plan emerged.

The university, created through the old policy and a faithful imitation of the authoritarian Dutch university, became the focal point of the reactionaries. In its structure, the most reactionary group was the Association of Scientific Personnel (VWPU), which was closely associated with certain leaders of the Moederbond union; and they agreed to mobilize the students to challenge the military authority. They expected the students' parents to demonstrate their displeasure as well, something that did not happen.

At that time, there were five private radio broadcasting stations in Suriname, controlled by enemies of the revolution; three daily newspapers, whose owners were opposed to the process; and three weekly publications, which were also hostile. In this destabilizing scenario, many journalists had no scruples: they highlighted the government's mistakes in coping with socioeconomic problems, they did not publish news defending the revolution, they disseminated and confirmed lies and confused rumors, and they preached violence....

Attacks were launched against Surinamese foreign policy, emphasizing its relations with Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada. The civil disobedience was supposed to culminate in a general strike and in the intervention of foreign mercenaries. The conspirators thought that certain elements of the Army would also revolt, and considered October the proper time for the general strike.

They even did everything possible to prevent the official visit by the prime minister of Grenada, Maurice Bishop, scheduled for 26 October, from taking place. Many public services were halted, and state equipment and property were destroyed. But the general strike failed, owing to the effective intervention of the People's Committees and to the fact that the largest national union, to which the bauxite workers belonged, refused to participate in it.

The so-called "functional groups" with an antidemocratic structure submitted a plan for "restoring" democracy, the solution of which was to return to the parliamentary state predating 25 February 1980. The conspirators introduced violence, and even announced publicly that Comdr Desi Bouterse, leader of the revolution, would be eliminated before 1983.

The military action planned for this purpose was to take place on the night of 25-26 December, but the National Military Council came out ahead once again, and on the night of 7-8 December, the conspiracy was aborted.

This prompted the capitalist, and particularly the Dutch press to disseminate the most scandalous lies. Nevertheless, it did not say anything, not a single word, about the conspiracies. And now it is attempting, in collusion with the United States and the Netherlands, to create a propitious atmosphere for justifying the destabilization and intervention.

The Hague government stepped up its attacks on the Suriname process, stopping the "aid" amounting to \$1.5 billion, which it had pledged to give over a period of 10 years to finance the country's development; while at the same time it attempted to make the world believe that, on 8 December 1982, the reactionary opposition had been physically annihilated in a massacre.

The notes of protest from Suriname against this type of blackmail were answered by the Netherlands Government and the capitalist press with more lies and further misrepresentation, a position that is overtly opposed to the United Nations Charter and all international rules governing relations between sovereign states.

It is very hot in Paramaribo on this February night, the third anniversary of Suriname's independence. The people are anxiously waiting on the grounds of the Presidential Palace, because, according to an announcement in the press, today's reception is open and general, and it is the best occasion for hailing the leader and other heads of the Surinamese revolutionary process.

The palace doors are opened and Comdr Desi Bouterse appears in the center. Tall, slender, with large, alert eyes, he seems to be somewhat older than 35. He is wearing an olive drab dress uniform, and a beret on his head. He offers his hand, I congratulate him and I tell him that I am a Cuban reporter who has come to interview him. He is surprised, smiles, agrees and accepts. Later, I see him on the grounds, admiring the American Indian wisdom and the art of the Marrons, the Saramaccas and the Ndjukas, tribes which the Dutch were never able to colonize.

And I listen, after the national anthem, at the end, as he asks the bandleader to play a popular calypso, dancing with his people, who cheer and applaud him, and chant with him the most aggressive revolutionary slogans.

We thank Comdr Desi Bouterse for the interview that he granted to BOHEMIA, the dialog of which we are reprinting as follows:

[Question] Comdr Bouterse, why so many conspiratorial devices, why so much imperialist aggressiveness against Suriname?

[Answer] We have always said that we would make a revolution, and the process is advancing. Understandably, the imperialists are trying to prevent us from consolidating it, because they have major interests in Suriname. This is why they want to isolate and attack us. It does not please or suit either the Netherlands or the United States for a revolution to take root here.

Now then, I don't believe that those countries would dare declare war on us. The Netherlands talks a great deal about the mercenaries that it has recruited to invade us, but where the real danger lies is in the United States. Their tactic is to claim that the Hague is going to attack us, when what they want is for the United States to be the one to do so. And the Netherlands is engaged in a negative campaign against Suriname in order to conceal the truth about this matter. It is the United States which instructs the Netherlands on what it should do at all times against us: the way to threaten us, and the method for keeping us under control. It is far closer to us than the Netherlands, and perhaps for that reason it assumes that it has more opportunities for attacking us.

My calculations may be wrong, but I doubt very much that it will decide to intervene directly, because every time the imperialists put an item of information into their computers, the result is different from what they expect insofar as Suriname is concerned. I do think that it will continue to attack the revolution with campaigns, fostering mercenaries and trying to eliminate the leaders, but nothing more. And although the Netherlands is still making noise about this, it is in Miami that they are now hiring the same mercenaries who went to Vietnam to come to Suriname. It is from the United States that the major threat comes.

The fact is that both the United States and the Netherlands have great interests here: bauxite, lumber, minerals....Until recently, they thought that we would radicalize the process, and would do dreadful, irresponsible things; and that this would afford them occasion to intervene. They may even have expected us to nationalize their property and to eject them immediately. They were waiting for that, in order to be able to act. But we did not do anything that the Surinamese people could not totally comprehend, nor shall we do such a thing. What we have done is to establish the revolution, and that cannot be achieved through radicalism.

I realize that they have sworn to crush the revolution, but we have sworn to consolidate it. It is our obligation, not only to the Surinamese people, but also to the entire American continent.

Brazil has interests here too. One very important one is egress through our territory to the Caribbean Sea. But its government is "concerned" over the Cuban influence in Suriname. I don't know what the Cubans have done to the Brazilians. The president of that country has spoken very badly about Cuba. Personally, I consider his remarks to be rash. He has said that he would not accept the Cuban influence in Suriname. I don't know that influence he is talking about, but in any event, I don't know how he would arrange not to accept it either; because we do not do what Brazil wants, and our decisions are not made in consultation with anyone.

They say thereabouts that Brazil and Venezuela are vying for the leadership of the continent. I have noted lately that Brazil acts as if it had given up that dispute with Venezuela and was interested in dealing with larger issues; because it thinks that it will thereby prove its intention of being a superpower in the future.

Venezuela, for its part, has been changing its foreign policy slightly. It has attempted contacts with Havana, with Nicaragua and with us, as if it wanted to establish a progressive image abroad. Nevertheless, the internal situation in that country is quite different, and there is no doubt that it, too, has interests in

Suriname; because, as everyone knows, it has border problems with Guyana and, naturally, it is attempting to have dealings with us. However, I can imagine what they are seeking, and I shall not allow us to be used negatively against any other country, much less against a fraternal Third World country. And Guyana is a fraternal country; note that I am referring to the people of Guyana, I repeat, the people of Guyana.

[Question] Comdr Bouterse, what person or persons are ordering or approving plans to assassinate you?

[Answer] It is a combination. If they succeed in assassinating me, or if they assassinate any leader, neither the Netherlands nor the United States will admit the responsibility, because it is a combination of the two. Of course, they would not do it directly, but they will always find mercenaries who are willing to undertake dirty work such as that.

[Question] What are the main problems facing the government in the battle for development?

[Answer] There are many problems with which the process has clashed from its beginnings, ethnic, racial, linguistic and cultural problems, which interfere with unity. For this reason, we have given priority to organization and unity.

The young progressive countries such as ours have but few opportunities for easy development. The imperialists do not cease striking at us for a single instant. We ourselves came to power without any experience in leading the country. That has not been a major difficulty, because we have learned something from practical experience in work. But we do not yet have the habit, or the custom of working together. Each one thinks that his line is the best. We shall solve this, we shall succeed in having all progressive Surinamese advance together forever. I am highly optimistic. We shall achieve that.

Perhaps what I am going to say now may seem inconsistent: The ones who will help us most to unite will be the imperialists themselves, not because they will do so voluntarily, no, because I have never heard tell of imperialists aiding the poor countries, just like that. But this counterrevolutionary action that the imperialists are backing abroad, and those erroneous positions that they assume, will cause the progressive Surinamese to unite forever. And when that happens, I shall send a letter to the Netherlands saying: thank you very much.

Our revolution has a very unique nature. We did not come to power after 20 or 30 years of struggle in the mountains; we did not take over the country little by little. This nation has a tradition of struggle. In past centuries, our ancestors struggled for their freedom. We did the same ourselves, just as the Marrons Indians of Suriname did. Sometimes it is difficult to explain the idiosyncracies of this process to a foreigner, because, for different reasons, we here are virtually doing things in the opposite way from how they are done in other countries; because, as I have already noted, our power was not established after a struggle of 20 or 30 years, and because our population is very heterogeneous. All of this has required a long time to make the people understand that the revolution is deeply in the service of their interests.

Time and calmness are necessary to convince the people that the capitalist system in which we are still living has no future, that it will collapse. At present, what the people are seeing with their own eyes is making them realize what capitalism really is, and what imperialism is. All those conspiracies of the past 3 years, all that imperialist aggression, the withdrawal of financial aid: all this has been teaching the people what imperialism really is. Because if the Netherlands definitively withdraws financial assistance from Suriname, well, we shall have some very serious problems...we already have them, we already have them.

[Question] What is your view on the Hague's decision to abrogate the bilateral cooperation treaty signed in 1975?

[Answer] The Netherlands cannot withdraw that aid from us. It is obligated to provide it. It is our right. They plundered and exploited us over a period of 300 years for that. Our financial and economic situation is difficult, and we have been forced to come out with an emergency program in order to survive. But this is associated with external forces, and particularly with the solidarity that we are encountering.

I think that, at the present time, the Netherlands is assessing the means for restoring that aid to us, but it is seeking a way of doing so without losing international "prestige." The fact is that it must provide it; there is no other alternative. When it decides how to do so, we shall not throw our principles out the window. We shall sit down to talk with the Netherlands on an equal footing. What we shall not accept is the Netherlands' continuing to think that Suriname is a prostitute to be used when desired. We shall not accept that.

[Question] What do you think of Reagan?

[Answer] He will not be able to accomplish what he has promised his people; he will not be able to carry out the threats that he has made in Central American and the Caribbean. Perhaps he wants to use Suriname in an attempt to show power for the last time. Well, we don't know whether it is for the last or the first time, because I don't believe that he has yet shown that he has any power. He has said that the countries of the continent will by no means make revolutions, and here are the countries making their revolutions. The fact is that Reagan is still harboring the same ideas as those of the people of the Middle Ages; and he thinks that he is great and that he has a right to tell others what they must do. He spends his life threatening that he is going to intervene here, that he is going to intervene there. His foreign policy has failed: it has become nonsensical, particularly in Central America, the Caribbean and the entire continent. He is well aware of this, and is trying to retrieve some small countries with promises. Although the small countries may be very poor, they are not crazy, and their eyes are wide open. The incident involving the Malvinas proved this. On the one hand, it showed the United States' true intentions; and, on the other, it caused the countries of America to unite against the injustice. Times have changed.

[Question] The capitalist, and especially the Dutch press claims that you have declared your intention of seeking aid from Cuba and the USSR in the event of aggression....

[Answer] I have never made that statement, but I am not surprised that they should say so. As I explained earlier, I don't believe that any country will declare war on us. And, as for requesting aid, I have my opinion in this regard, and if I have not stated it, if I do not state it, it is because I see no reason for publishing it. The fact is that the capitalist press is always trying to put Cuba in a very negative light, to isolate it and to divert the world's attention from what is really going on in Cuba. At present, the imperialists are seeking, by their propaganda, to find international backing to justify the counterrevolutionary action that they are taking here. And they never tire of publishing the notion that we are monsters and executioners. And they foster the idea that anyone who eliminates us will be the hero who will save Suriname from the Cuban "virus." And they also claim that, if they intervene, it is to save the continent from the "virus" of Cuban influence. This is why I am not surprised that they have claimed I intend to request assistance from Cuba, or that I intend to request assistance from the USSR. What makes me very happy, very happy indeed, is that they have not claimed, nor can it ever be claimed, that I shall seek assistance from the United States or from the Netherlands.

[Question] Comdr Bouterse, would you care to address a few remarks to the Cuban people?

[Answer] The Cuban people must know that I never intend to say that I have nothing to do with Cuba, for no one would believe me. The imperialists are quite well aware that a revolution is under way in this country, and that we revolutionaries are united in the struggle. You are a reporter from a major magazine, a great magazine. You have read capitalist cables and reports talking about how bad we are here, and about the atrocities that we commit. But you have been here in Suriname for several days. You have personal experience. You can compare the truth with the slander. I am not concerned over the fact that the capitalist press speaks badly of Suriname, or of me. If the day comes when that press begins saying that the Surinamese revolutionary process is good, and that its leader is good, it will be because we shall be making many mistakes; it will be because we shall be like them. And that will never happen. Tell that to the Cuban people.

2909

CSO: 3248/664

CDU PRESIDENT VIEWS ELECTION RESULTS, ECONOMIC CRISIS

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 26 Feb 83 p 8

/Text/ Managua, 25 Feb (PL)--Juan Raul Ferreira, president of the Democratic Convergence of Uruguay /CDU/ stated that the domestic elections planned by the military to consolidate their power were turned by the people into a tool for the struggle against the regime.

In statements to PRENSA LATINA, Ferreira explained that in Uruguay the end of 1982 found the people highly politicized and aware that strength can impose the will of the majority as expressed at the polls last November.

He pointed out that National and Colorado conventions clearly expressed their positions on negotiations with the military authorities and refused to agree to holding elections in 1984 and including the National Security Council (COSENA) in the text of the new constitution.

Referring to a recent speech by Gregorio Alvarez, Uruguayan head of state, the president of the CDU said that it could only be interpreted as a last recourse of the loser.

On that occasion, Alvarez made the development of the institutional program conditional on the agreement to be reached this year between the political parties and the military government regarding the drafting of a new constitution.

No conditions are imposed upon today's victors, Ferreira said.

Speaking about the current economic crisis in Uruguay, he explained that it forces us to think in terms of a democratic institutional system built on new bases, capable of promoting nationalization of the banks and foreign trade, consolidation of an agrarian reform process, and the advance toward social renewal.

Among the basic tasks of the CDU, Ferreira mentioned maintenance of the climate of mobilization of the people that was achieved during the recent elections, and the establishment of bases for a great national accord including all the competing sectors.

Only through the participation of nationalists, "batallistas" and those of the Frente Amplio will it be possible to defeat the dictatorship, consolidate a more advanced democratic system, and then go on to the modification of the social structures, he noted.

The CDU president also referred to the current situation in Central America and the Caribbean, and said that the only way to prevent Washington's interventionist policy from being extended to the entire continent is by halting any attempt at North American aggression in the area.

Ferreira, who attended the meeting of the Bureau for Coordination of the Movement of Non-Aligned Nations held last January in this capital, believed that the agreements reached during that meeting represent a fundamental contribution to the struggle for the liberation of peoples.

The final document can be no clearer in its solidarity with the people fighting against all attempts at aggression, nor can it be a more emphatic and categorical warning to the United States of the terrible consequences that would result from any attempt at aggression in Central American and the Caribbean, he said.

8587

CSO: 3348/294

TOBAGO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY WARNED ABOUT OVERSPENDING

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Mar 83 p 1

[Article by John Babb]

[Text] THE TOBAGO House of Assembly has been warned about over-spending. It has been advised to cut its rate of expenditure on wages, cost of living allowance and overtime.

For the month of Janaury alone, it is understood, the Assembly overshot its expenditure provision for wages, cost of living and overtime by more than \$3 million.

The Director of Finance of the Assembly has warned that should the Assembly continue its trend of expenditure it would exceed by December 31, its original provision for the year, by some \$39.7 million.

Last month, the Director drew the matter to the attention of the Clerk of the Assembly, when he observed that "expenditure incurred during the month of January, 1983, for wages, cost of living allowance, and overtime seems to be very high in proportion to the total provision."

Of the \$67.2 million allocated for the year under the three heads--wages, cost of living, and overtime--by the end of January \$8.8 million has been spent.

In his directive to the Clerk of the Assembly, the Director of Finance said: "It seems to me that there is a total disregard concerning the financial regulation in connection with keeping expenditure within the estimate."

He reminded the Clerk that no funds were available in the recurrent estimate for virement during 1983.

The Director of Finance suggested that the number of gangs with casual workers be reduced; a cut-back on certain work programmes and proper control of the wages and overtime vote.

He advised that expenditure be kept at a minimum during 1983 because of the status of the estimate. Not more than one-twelfth of the original provision for wages and overtime should be expended each month.

Of \$10.9 million allocated for wages and cost of living in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for the year, \$1.1 million spent in January. Of \$652,127 allotted for overtime, \$112,474 was spent.

In Tourism Development, \$186,395 was spent in January on wages and cost of living, from the year's total of \$909,077 while \$76,805 was eaten up from the overtime vote of \$250,310.

Just over \$4.7 million was spent in January on the maintenance of roads, from the year's vote of \$35.1 million, while \$344,598 was spent from the overtime total of \$1.5 million.

According to the Director of Finance, if the trend continues, the Assembly, by December 31, would exceed the wages and cost of living provision, by \$33.4 million, and overtime by \$6.2 million

CSO: 3298/504

TEXACO, OTHERS IN FOREFRONT OF EMPLOYMENT, UNION PROBLEMS

Discussion in Parliament

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

TEXACO Trinidad Incorporated has agreed to withdraw individual notices of retrenchment sent to employees but its notice of intended retrenchment sent to the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union still stands.

The notice to the union gives a 21-day advice of intention to retrench.

"This was pointed out by Rep. Errol Mahabir, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives, in the House of Representatives yesterday. Both parties are to meet at the Ministry of Labour on Monday to discuss the issues.

Minister Mahabir told Parliament that it appeared the company's action in issuing retrenchment notices was faulty. Notice of intended retrenchment was not served directly on an officer of the union before individual notices were served on workers calling on them to report for pay and remain at home for 21 days.

The union protested, he said, and the company agreed to withdraw the individual notices but the notice to the union still stands.

The Texaco issue was raised in the House of Representatives yesterday by Rep. Kelvin Ramnath, member of the Opposition Alliance, under urgent matters of public importance.

AN ASSURANCE

Mr. Ramnath called on Government to make a statement on the future of refining operations in Trinidad.

Minister Mahabir outlined details of the discussions he had with Texaco and the union and proposals he had put forward on February 24 for settlement of the issue relating to

reduction of the retirement age from 65 to 60 years.

Mr. Mahabir said the company had agreed that if the union agreed to his (the Minister's) proposals, the company would go along with them.

If the retirement plan is accepted, he said, then about 700 workers would be retired.

Mr. Mahabir explained that in discussions over the last few months the company had made it clear that it could not hope to exist with the same manpower and the company had proposed the least painful way was a reduction in the retirement age.

He said that in all the discussions, the union had maintained one position — it had made it clear that regardless of what the company offered, "not a man must go." However it would accept an attractive voluntary package.

After proposals of the company were declared inadequate by the union after months of negotiations, he met both parties at which he was asked to formulate proposals.

Following further talks, the company had indicated that it could not go on indefinitely with discussion and he pleaded with the company to give the union opportunity to discuss with its members.

Mr. Mahabir said: "The company has given me the assurance that if the union accepts my proposals for

reduction in the retirement age from 65 to 60 it will immediately withdraw retrenchment notices."

Earlier, Mr. Mahabir read a letter from Mr. John McKingley, chairman and chief executive officer of Texaco Inc. sent to Prime Minister George Chambers, in June last year, drawing attention to changes in the petroleum industry.

Mr. Mahabir said that Texaco had told the ministerial team in no uncertain manner that because of the decline in the international petroleum industry it had to make a number of arrangements within the company structure.

He said, too, that Texaco, by application of its corporate policy, had rendered the Trinidad refinery completely irrelevant to the Texaco global system.

He said it was "clear to us that Texaco will like to remain in Trinidad and Tobago but in the producing operations."

Mr. Mahabir pointed out that the Texaco refinery was running at 63,000 barrels a day and that was only because Government had transferred 35,000 barrels from Trin-toc to Texaco refinery, otherwise the refinery would have closed down.

He said that Government was advised that between 1972 and 1981 Texaco had lost US \$1.9 billion from processing crude in Trinidad and Texaco had indicated that it had no intention of bringing crude to Trinidad and Tobago.

The first direct action to save the jobs at Texaco was taken by government and announced in the budget speech, he said.

"None of us want to see workers retrenched," he said, "and we should all join in trying to find a solution to what is a problem for us all," he said.

Mr. Mahabir said that discussions were in progress at the present time for rationalisation of refinery operations.

Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday wanted to know that if the OWTU could not accept conditions, what was the plan of Government to save the workers from retrenchment.

Mr. Mahabir outlined the proposals he put forward for the reduction of the retirement age from 65 to 60 years.

Among them he listed retirement benefits as prescribed by the rules of the respective pension plans which will be amended to provide additional benefits for those who have already attained age 60 or over whereby:-

(a) service will be calculated as though the employee had worked to age 65;

(b) calculated pensions will not be discounted on account of commencement of payments before age 65; and

(c) interest earned on EGPF credits will be calculated as though withdrawal is effected as of age 65.

In addition to these benefits there will be paid a special severance benefit calculated on the basis of two and a half (2½) months' salary/wage for each year remaining between the date of termination and the employees' attainment of age 65. This payment under present severance arrangement will be made free of income tax up to \$40,000. Amounts in excess of \$40,000 will attract tax on such amounts at the marginal rate.

Also employees will be deemed to have their annual leave due date as of January 1, 1983 and leave payments will be effected on this basis where leave has not already been taken.

Texaco Retrenchment Notices

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Mar 83 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text] TEXACO Trinidad Inc. yesterday morning issued retrenchment notices to approximately 400 of its monthly salaried and weekly paid workers effective from April 15 because of continuing financial losses. Later in the day, however, the notices were withdrawn.

About four hours after they were issued, the company and executive officers of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union, led by Mr. George Weekes, President General, and including Mr. Errol McLeod, second vice president, met for about two hours at the administration building, Pointe-a-Pierre, and discussed the matter.

Following the meeting, it was agreed that the union and company meet at the Ministry of Labour on Monday at 3 p.m. to further discuss the company's proposal dealing with the reduction of the retirement age from 65 to 60 years.

In serving the retrenchment notices, the affected workers were requested to remain at home and be paid for the three-week period. The company changed its stand on this item but made it clear that the retrenchment notices still remained in effect.

Early Settlement

According to Texaco, following representation made by Mr. Weekes and assurances given by him, the company agreed that the affected workers, if they so wished, could return to their work place for the three week period.

Texaco said: "It should be made clear that the retrenchment remains in effect: "The company said it wished to emphasise the need for early settlement of the issues and remains hopeful that the OWTU will accept the minister's proposal on the early retirement plan because of the economic position of the company.

Mr. Lloyd Austin, General Manager, headed the company's team at yesterday's talks.

On receipt of the letters, the workers became annoyed and walked from the Texaco Sports Club car part to the administration building, opened the main iron gates and demanded to see Mr. Austin.

Minutes after the workers entered the compound, the number of regular policemen from San Fernando, headed by Senior Superintendent Carlton Maurice, arrived at the scene to preserve law and order.

The Police did not have to go into action. No one was arrested. Workers displayed their union flag chanting "Texaco must go."

Following the meeting with the company, Mr. Weekes and Mr. McLeod led the workers back to the Texaco Sports Club car part where they reported on the outcome of the meeting.

Mr. McLeod announced the agreement reached. He told a large gathering that Mr. Austin said the reason why the retrenchment notices were issued was because he (Mr. Austin) was fearful for the company's plant and equipment in view of the march carded for today.

A company release issued before the meeting said: "Texaco Trinidad Inc. today notified its employees and the union representatives that it has terminated a number of refining petro chemical, and support service personnel involving the company operation here. Termination is being made on a last-in, first out seniority basis, department by department.

The company pointed out that this action is attributed to the depressed petroleum industry's condition which has resulted in general reduced levels of crude oil refining, excessive refining capacity and unfavourable economics in Texaco Trinidad's refining operation.

"Over the last several months the company has taken a number of actions to reduce cost and expenses. I began discussions last August with union representatives for lowering the normal retirement age from 65 to 60 which is the present retirement age for most industrial employees in Trinidad as well as employees of government.

"In this regard, numerous meetings were held, both separately with the union and jointly with the union and the Ministry of Labour to discuss various retirement proposals. Unfortunately, no agreement has yet been reached. Because of the continuing financial difficulties Texaco Trinidad must continue its effort to reduce expenses. Accordingly the company has no recourse but to reduce its employee complement."

OWTU Demands on Texaco

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] TRINIDAD Texaco Incorporated and the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) failed to reach agreement at the Ministry of Labour last night but the union submitted proposals in writing for the first time on the issue of early retirement.

Minister of Labour, Social Security and Co-Operatives, Mr Errol Mahabir, described the union's proposals as "way in excess of what I have proposed."

According to the union's proposals submitted to the Minister yesterday, at a meeting of 500 Texaco employees aged 58 to 65, it was unanimously agreed that the reduction of the retirement aged from 65 to 60 must be conditional on the company accepting the following:

1. Pension for retirees affected and all future retirees must be calculated not on the final three-year average but on the retiree's highest salary paid in any 12-month period times the number of years' service times the pension factor (now 1.5) but to be discussed with a view to increasing;
2. In any event pension must not be less than two-thirds of that highest salary.
3. Employees Group Pension Fund (EGPF) credits must be calculated as though withdrawn at age 65.

Special Severance

4. The company must make special severance payment of six months salary/wages for each remaining year of service.
5. An additional payment representing an acceptable portion accumulated leave entitlement, savings plan contribution and travel grant must be made in lieu of these fringes as if they were earned up to age 65.
6. The company must state in writing that with a settlement of the retirement age there would be no further retrenchment.

7. If these proposals are accepted by the company, the union is willing to begin discussions in one month's time to give effect to these decisions and to discuss such other matters as may be found desirable.

8. Government should agree that the first \$75,000 of extra payments excluding pension cash option which is already tax free, must be made tax free.

Mr. Mahabir who met with both parties individually and then together, said after the discussion that the company told him that it was with great difficulty and only in a desire to achieve a settlement that Texaco accepted Mr. Mahabir's proposals and therefore Texaco was unable to accept the conditions set out by the union.

Mr. Mahabir said he asked the union to look again at its proposal and the company to examine his proposals once more in the spirit of compromise and then the two parties should communicate with him on or before Wednesday next week.

The Minister also commented on a letter the union sent to Prime Minister George Chambers, dated yesterday, that pointed to a letter received by the OWTU on September 20, 1968, from Prime Minister Dr. Eric Williams which promised that there should be no retrenchment in the oil industry without the specific approval of Cabinet conveyed in writing.

Yesterday's letter, signed by OWTU President General George Weekes, said that "the present Minister of Energy informed the union that Dr. Williams's letter remained in force and that the union had nothing to fear."

In an interview at Riverside Plaza yesterday, Mr. Weekes said the assurance was given by Minister Patrick Manning soon after the 1981 general elections when the Minister visited the union's office.

Mr. Mahabir said yesterday that this matter of the letter was raised with him when he held a meeting with the union in San Fernando in January and at the time he told the OWTU that the letter was not law and that circumstances had changed since it was written some 15 years ago.

Shoe Factory Layoffs

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

FIFTY-FIVE shoe-makers at Charles Horrell Shoes Trinidad Ltd were retrenched last week and several more are to lose their jobs this week, the company said.

The General Manager, Mr. Paul Ponchielli, said that the slow-down in the economy and unfair competition had forced down production from 10,000 pairs monthly to 4,000 pairs.

From a peak of 140 shoemakers at the Trincity plant, Mr. Ponchielli said he was aiming to reduce his work force to suit demands.

Charles Horrell is the largest shoe manufacturer in the country and specialises in footwear for gents.

The General Manager said that

shoes from United States, Taiwan, Korea and Brazil were coming into the country illegally.

Exports of his goods took a nosedive with protectionist policies adopted by Caricom partners.

Jamaica and Barbados were not interested in Trinidad footwear at the moment, Mr. Ponchielli said.

He said the two-shift system at his plant could not be maintained.

The company has been holding talks with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce about putting shoes on the negative list.

The workers are represented by the Transport and Industrial Workers' Trade Union.

Steamship Company Lockout

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

About 180 workers of the Alcoa Steamship Company have been locked out by the company since Sunday night. The lock-out resulted from a breakdown in negotiations between the company and the Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Trade Union.

The parties were negotiating a new contract but by mutual consent the old contract was extended to February 20, 1983.

While the negotiations were going on, workers were reported to have engaged in sick-outs and refused to work overtime.

The company said that ships arriving with bauxite could not be off-loaded at Tembladora, Carenage, and between February 16 and March 16, Alcoa suffered losses amounting to \$771,592.

The union is asking for an increase of 60 per cent over three years and has rejected the company's offer of a 43 per cent, which with increased fringe bene-

fits, would amount to \$3.8 per cent.

The company is seeking the removal of restrictive work practices capable of crippling operations, as happened during the February-March period.

Alcoa is a U.S. company which began operations here in 1952. It holds a 99-year lease on land at Tembladora.

The company operates a transshipment station dealing with bauxite from Guyana and Suriname but mainly from Suriname.

It is understood the average pay was \$12.53 per hour and workers got five weeks leave with 46 days pay per year. There was also a non-contributory insurance scheme.

German Firm's Action

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] ABOUT 1,500 hourly-rated, weekly paid workers of the German firm, DSD Dillinger Stahlbau at Point Lisas, were locked out yesterday when they reported for work, the Brotherhood of Construction and Industrial Workers' Trade Union reported.

A check at the firm's Point Lisas office showed that uniformed policemen were on duty, but officials of the company could not be contacted for comment.

Mr. William Rampersad, President General of the union accused the company of "unlawfully locking out the workers."

He said the union had placed the matter in the hands of legal advisers.

Mr. Rampersad said that last Friday the union succeeded in getting the company to withdraw dismissal notices served on 107 workers two days before.

It was reported that the firm had served termination notices because work on the methanol project was coming to an end. The firm is also doing construction work on the urea plant.

Mr. Rampersad accused the company of trying to assist another union in gaining recognition as the bargaining body for its workers.

He said that on Monday the company packed away most of its tools in a container and when the workers reported for work, most of them had no tools.

DSD is doing the mechanical work on construction of the methanol and urea plants at Point Lisas.

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

THE PORT Authority has moved to stamp out costly ad hoc arrangements made between its offices and the Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Trade Union (SWWTU) outside the existing industrial agreement.

A circular to this effect, signed by Mr. Otis Mendez, General Manager of the Port Authority, was issued to officers of the Authority on Friday.

The circular reads in part: "It has been brought to the attention of the Port Authority that decisions and/or arrangements have been made by officers of the Port Authority outside the industrial agreement, without reference to the General Manager or the Authority, such actions not forming part of the responsibilities of the officers who made such decisions.

"Some of the decisions reached have involved considerable expenditure on the part of the Port Authority and only came to the knowledge of the

Authority inadvertently."

The circular cited the case of an unauthorised agreement between the then Transport Superintendent and representatives of the union. As a result of this ad hoc arrangement, a heavy lift operator was credited with 60 days off within a three month period. This accrual of 60 days arose as a result of the individual being required to perform his normal duties while on "stand by."

"The above instance of an agreement outside the industrial agreement is not singular but is drawn to illustrate how serious the problem is," the circular observed.

Mr. Mendez instructed: "With immediate effect, no officer of the Port Authority is to make any ad hoc arrangements which have financial implications, unless he has the prior authority of the General Manager and/or Head of his department."

Pay for 'Idle' Dockers

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Mar 83 p 1

[Excerpts]

WORKERS in the Transport Section of the Port Authority collected a total of \$4,605,410 for virtually doing nothing while on "standby" duty during the year ending December 31, 1982.

According to sources close to the Port, this was in addition to \$13,663,249 which the 235 drivers and operators earned in productive labour during the year.

It is understood that this scandalous situation with unproductive labour on the Port-of-Spain waterfront is the major issue on which negotiations for a new industrial agreement between the Port Authority and the Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Trade Union (SWWTU) have broken down.

Informed sources say that the Port management, negotiating directly with the union for the first time, has submitted counter proposals for the discontinuance of all standby labour at the Port. This has provoked strong resistance from the union.

Negotiations for the 1981-1984 contract, started two years ago, have settled the major cost items such as wages (50 per cent over the three-year period), cost of living allowance and incentive bonus.

However, the union continues to reject counter proposals by the Port Authority with regard to a number of outstanding matters. These include the cessation of employment of gangway watchmen, the shifting of drivers from hatch to hatch or ship to ship where necessary during working hours, new proposals for the operation of coastal vessels, the allocation of forklift drivers to shifts and other areas where they may be needed, new proposals for the container terminal and the cessation of all standby labour.

It is understood that the Port Authority is determined that "these costly and fraudulent practices" should be stopped immediately. In its counter proposals, the Port has called for the cessation of all stand-by labour.

Reports say that the Union is stoutly defending the status quo. If any changes are to be made, according to the Union's position, then the practice of engaging non-Port equipment and labour must be stopped.

But the union is aware that its proposals is unacceptable since it would severely curtail operations on the Port, especially at the container terminal.

Port sources believe that, judging from the attitude and the noises coming from the union, any attempt to stop these standby provisions would lead to serious labour disruptions, possibly a full-scale strike on the Port.

The matter is expected to be referred to the Ministry of Labour for conciliation.

UTILITY COST INCREASES POSE SEVERE BLOW TO CONSUMERS

Electricity Commission Plans

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] TRINIDAD and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) is going to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for permission to increase rates and charges at levels which, according to an official source were bound to send "shock waves" among consumers.

Anticipating "widespread debate" and objections to the increases sought, Mr. Leo Martin T&TEC's general manager in a circular to the Commission's employees, asked that they conduct themselves "with the usual calm and decorum of which I am sure you are all capable."

Complying with the legal provisions, T&TEC has published its Notice of Intention and will shortly lodge the application with the PUC which is currently dealing with similar applications from the Telephone Company and the Public Transport Service Corporation.

An official of T&TEC declined to clarify the implications of the increases but conceded that they were hefty.

For example, the minimum bill for all consumers has moved from \$3 to \$10 every two months.

A fuel charge has been introduced which will be added to the bills.

And the present charge of 13 cents for the first 50 KWhrs (Kilowatt hours) has jumped to 25 cents for the first 300 KWH, every two months.

Other steep increases are reflected under "miscellaneous service charges" that T&TEC are hoping the PUC, headed by Dr. Selwyn Ryan, would grant the State-owned utility.

In this regard, T&TEC is asking consumers to pay "cost of service plus 50 per cent thereof" for the following services, with the existing charges in brackets:

- Reconnection after disconnection for non-payment of accounts (\$3.50);
- Install meter and reconnect secondaries (\$4);
- Reconnect secondaries (\$3.50);
- Reposition secondaries (\$3.50);
- Reposition meters (\$1);
- Change meter found working accurately (\$3);
- Check meter found working accurately (\$3);
- Attending to interval trouble reports, up to a radius of 10 miles from operating centre (\$3.50);
- Over a radius of 10 miles from operating centre (\$4), and;
- Installing banners (\$12).

The T&TEC source could not say if "cost of service" included payment for the crew assigned to the various jobs.

But he said "very soon the Commission would be making the application and its implications clear."

He added:

"We don't want to prejudice anybody's mind at this point. The document is there for everyone to study. They can see what it means by looking at any of their bills and make comparisons."

Public Utilities and National Transportation Minister John Eckstein last week intimated that the Commission was going to the PUC with the request.

Mr. Roy Mitchell, T&TEC's public relations officer, said of the application:

"Under the T&TEC Act the revenue from sales of electricity is expected to cover operating costs, interest on borrowings and depreciation and also provide a surplus for capital expansion."

Mr. Martin told the Commission's employees that it was 15 years since the Commission last got a rate increase.

Within recent years all of the Commission's major capital development and expansion programmes had been financed from funds made available by Government.

He emphasised:

"The Government has indicated that this practice will cease with effect from 1984, so that it is incumbent upon us to rely on our own resources to generate the revenue required to meet our capital and recurrent expenditure.

"This is a good omen in that it places on all of us the responsibility to improve our levels of productivity and quality of performance to acceptable standards."

Water Authority Proposal

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Mar 83 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text] CONSUMERS already faced with having to pay more for telephones, 'bus transportation and electricity will soon have to dig deeper into their pockets --for water.

This was learnt during a tour the Water Sewerage Authority (WASA) conducted for officials of the rate-fixing Public Utilities Commission (PUC) last Friday.

The all-day tour was focussed on the Authority's "pride and joy" (according to WASA's acting PRO Farouk Khan), the Canoni/Arena water treatment plant.

It also came out that the \$200-million venture (the first project the bribery-tainted Sam P. Wallace undertook in this country) was under a serious threat caused by quarrying and other industrial operations in the catchment area.

An official source said WASA's rates were fixed in 1937 under the old Central Water Distribution Authority (CWDA) Ordinance. The rate payable is pegged at 2-1 per cent of the annual rateable value (ARV) of premises.

The only change was a few years later when WASA was allowed to charge consumer 40 cent for every 1,000 gallons of water after the consumer used 24,000 gallons a year.

"That clearly cannot continue," it was stated.

In 1970 it cost WASA \$1.06 to treat 1.000 gallons of water.

That figure has skyrocketed to \$6.00 today.

All Thrown Out

In 1951, the then CWDA asked for a 100 per cent rate increase which was turned down. Three years later a proposal for a 150 per cent increase was thrown out by the relevant authority.

Another attempt was made in 1969, but this too, was unsuccessful.

WASA went to PUC in 1976, but according to the source, PUC said the proposals were unacceptable.

The source added: "When one looks at the salaries and other expenses rising every day, it is imperative that the Authority's rates and charges reflect the realities of today.

"And remember it is Government's policy that the utilities be made not to continue to rely on the Exchequer..."

WASA is now putting its case together.

Heading the PUC's team on the tour was its secretary Mr. Errol Cupid. Mr. Ronald Amoroso, Deputy Executive Director of WASA joined the party at the Piarco Water treatment plant.

With the party were two SERVOL nursery teacher trainees, Allison Gibbs (a Grenadian on a two-year course) and Karen Evangelou.

Giving the party an idea of the operations of the Caroni/Arena facility were Mr. Tawarie Tota-Maharaj, Engineer III and Mr. Victor Bryan, Engineer II.

Mr. Bryan said the system was designed to handle efficiently a turbidity (discolouration and other foreign particles in the water) rate of up to 250 units.

But that level was the exception rather than the rule.

Mr Bryan said at times (very often) the level was closer to 1,000 and if this situation was not arrested "when the project is pushing water at its optimum rate (60 million gallons per day) the position would be more severe. It is a big problem which we are working on.

The work involves finding the quarry operators and manufacturers who discharge effluent into the tributaries.

Last week, WASA flew some of its personnel over the areas as part of its detective-type work.

Because of the high (and unexpected) degree of turbidity, basins had to be cleansed of silt and said every two months--a situation not envisaged when the plant was being designed.

One of the lighter moments of the tour came where WASA has a well-put together audio-visual set-up explaining the working of the entire plant.

There are three bottles, one showing the raw water coming from the Caroni River: the other showing it in a settled state and a third bottle with the "end product". But the third bottle was empty.

PUC is facing a serious problem in the area of staff accommodation. It was explained that the authorities must immediately solve this problem

CSO: 3298/504

BRIEFS

PNM LEADER'S ILLNESS--MR. FRANCIS PREVATT, Chairman of the ruling People's National Movement, left Trinidad for the United Kingdom over the weekend reportedly for medical attention. Mr. Prevatt was accompanied by his son, Dr. Dourtney Prevatt, a medical practitioner. According to reports, Mr. Prevatt had to leave urgently for medical attention. Relatives could not be contacted to state when he was expected to return. Mr. Prevatt has been ailing for some time. [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Mar 83 p 1]

SWISS ENVOY--MR. PHILIPPE LEVY, Switzerland's Ambassador at large, has arrived in Trinidad for a three-day visit. Mr. Levy's visit is to maintain contacts between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Finance and Planning of Switzerland and Trinidad and Tobago. He will continue negotiations for an agreement between the two countries in the area of protection of foreign investments. Mr. Levy met Senator Anthony Jacelon, Minister in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, yesterday morning. Later in the day, he paid a courtesy call on Dr. Basil Ince, Minister of External Affairs. Mr. Levy is accompanied by Mr. J.D. Clavel, First Secretary of the Swiss Embassy. [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Mar 83 p 3]

PRC TRADE TEAM--A SIX-MEMBER import trade mission from the People's Republic of China is in Trinidad on a four-day working visit. The leader of the mission is Mr. Ye Yi, deputy director of the Import and Export Trade department of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Mission and Trade. The other members of the mission are two officials of that ministry and three business representatives of various Chinese state trading agencies. A spokesman for the Chinese Embassy has indicated that his Government is concerned about and is committed to reducing the current imbalance in trade between Trinidad and Tobago and China which stands in favour of that country. As a result, it has arranged the visit of the mission with a view to fully exploring the possibilities of purchasing products from Trinidad and Tobago. The need to redress the imbalance of trade was raised by the Government during a visit by the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs last year and by Mr. Wang Yanchang, former Ambassador. In 1981 Trinidad and Tobago imported \$21.7 million worth of goods from China which mainly comprised such products as groundnuts, cotton linen items, tableware and tools of base metal. From January to June 1982, the import figures stood at \$11.7 million. During these periods, Trinidad and Tobago did not undertake any export to China. [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Mar 83 p 6]

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